

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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## Gunfire bursts 'Kabubble'

New year festivities end in carnage in luxury hotel | Page 3

ANJA NIEDERHOLZ/AP

Afghanistan intelligence officials display some of the weapons and evidence collected from Thursday's attack on the Kabul Serena Hotel. Police say the attackers hid guns in their shoes or socks and opened fire in a restaurant, killing at least nine people.

## DOD to review awards system

Purple Hearts, drone medals to be included in 3 studies

By JON HARPER  
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department will reconsider the sensitive issue of whether drone operators and cyberwarriors will receive a medal for their service far away from combat areas, Pentagon Press Secretary Rear Adm. John Kirby told reporters Thursday. Lawmakers, meanwhile, have

ordered two separate reviews that look at how the military awards Purple Hearts, largely due to disagreements over whether victims killed and injured in the shootings at Fort Hood, Texas, and at a recruiting center in Little Rock, Ark., should be entitled to the medal. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta's announcement last year that a new Distinguished Warfare Medal had been created for out-

standing drone pilots and cyber-operators drew heavy fire from veterans, politicians and others who objected to it being ranked above the Purple Heart and other decorations earned in direct combat. Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel canceled the medal soon after he took office, and said DOD would instead create a new device to affix to existing medals.

SEE MEDALS ON PAGE 2



A new Pentagon review will revisit the idea of the Distinguished Warfare Medal.

Courtesy of the Department of Defense

## General's sentencing draws more calls for change

By JENNIFER HLAD  
Stars and Stripes

Members of Congress and victim advocacy groups reacted with horror and resignation Thursday to news that Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Sinclair will avoid jail time and instead be reprimanded and fined after

pleading guilty to adultery, mistreating the female captain with whom he had a three-year relationship, misusing a government credit card to pursue the affair and other charges. Sinclair must still go before a review board that will determine at what rank he will be

allowed to retire, but the punishment is far less severe than life in prison, as he had once faced. The possible sentence was reduced when sexual assault and other serious charges were dropped in return for his agreement to plead guilty to the other crimes.

Rep. Jackie Speier, D-Calif., called the punishment "laughable."

"This sentence is a mockery of military justice, a slap on the wrist nowhere close to being proportional to Sinclair's offenses," Speier said.

SEE SINCLAIR ON PAGE 4

## QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It doesn't help your case, and at worst you further traumatize someone. And do you think he or she is going to trust a cop again?"

— Derek Marsh, who trains California police in best practices on human trafficking cases, on a push by Honolulu police officers to keep an exemption in Hawaii state law that allows undercover officers to have sex with prostitutes during investigations

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## COMING SOON



### Shifting Gears

The 7 features your new car won't have

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## MILITARY

# DOD puts Ukraine aid cuts into plan

By RAY LOCKER  
USA Today

The Obama administration proposed a 28 percent spending cut for a Pentagon program that supports modernizing the military of Ukraine and other former Soviet Union republics, Pentagon budget records show. The move could endanger efforts to boost Ukraine's armed forces as they face threats from Russia.

The proposed cuts, contained in a detailed budget plan posted online this week, come over the objections of officials with the U.S. European Command, who argue they will hurt U.S. attempts to build armed forces in nations formerly beholden to Russia.

Spending on the Warsaw Initiative Fund is set to drop from \$34 million in the current fiscal year to \$24.4 million in the 2015 fiscal year, which starts Oct. 1. The Pentagon values the program, said Navy Cmdr. Amy Derrick-Frost, a Pentagon spokeswoman, but "we're responding to a very challenging fiscal environ-

ment, which will become all the more challenging if sequestration remains the law of the land. Weeks ago, the Department began a thorough review of all Warsaw Initiative Fund programs and funding to ensure we addressed our top priorities. We had to make tough choices, but if Warsaw Initiative funding for activities with Ukraine has in recent years surpassed any other recipient nation."

The proposed spending cut comes as "the demand for funding to meet important U.S./NATO objectives continues to grow," said the budget plan from the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency, which oversees the Warsaw Initiative.

"The implications of this are not good," said Stephen Blank, a senior fellow at the American Foreign Policy Council. "The only thing that the world respects is action, not talk, so if you are not going to fund these projects, then no one will take you seriously."

European Command officials, the budget document shows, said money from the initiative pays for

half of their military-to-military work in the Balkans, South Caucasus and Eurasia, which includes Ukraine, and failing to maintain spending levels "will weaken their ability to complete their country cooperation plans' goals and objectives, and will also reduce their overall engagement with the countries" involved in the Partnership for Peace.

The Partnership for Peace is a NATO program aimed at building the armed forces of potential NATO members and is supported by the Warsaw Initiative spending. Ukraine is not a NATO member, and its prime minister, Arseniy Yatsenyuk, said this week that it would not seek to join.

There is a chance the money could be restored by the administration or Congress as the need for more exercises in Ukraine continues, said Heather Conley, director and senior fellow of the Europe Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

European Command, Derrick-Frost said, "will continue to resource priority engagement

activities within the program or supplement with other complementary funding sources."

A 2009 study by RAND for the Pentagon said the top three roles for the initiative were creating a nation's defense policy and management, human resources and the democratic control of a nation's armed forces. Ukraine's participation in the program has created strong relationships with the U.S. military, which were influential in keeping the Ukrainian army from getting involved in last month's protests against the country's president, Viktor Yanukovich, who fled to Russia.

Some exercises with Ukraine may have to be canceled because of the rising tensions between Russia and Ukraine, which have led to Russia's seizing control of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, the document shows.

"Due to the dire security situation in country, prospects of continuing to execute (2014) events in Ukraine remain unknown at the time this document was prepared," the budget proposal says.

## Medals: Disparity among services on awards to be studied

### FROM FRONT PAGE

But that decision is being revisited as part of an upcoming study of the military's decorations-and-awards system that Hagel ordered Thursday.

The "comprehensive," yearlong review, to begin June 1, will be led by Jessica Wright, acting undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, who will work closely with Joint Chiefs chairman Gen. Martin Dempsey, the services, and the combatant commanders, according to Kirby.

"[The study] will determine the best way to recognize service members who use remote technology to directly impact combat operations, such as through cyber and remotely piloted aircraft ... That's part of the review, whether or not we should have a special device to go on another ribbon or [a new medal]," Kirby said.

The review team will also look at the processes and procedures for how medals for valor are

nominated in order to determine whether they can be improved, according to Kirby.

Based on his own military experience, Hagel is concerned that many acts of valor are going unrecognized for bureaucratic reasons.

"[Hagel] talked about seeing his own comrades there in Vietnam doing incredibly brave things, and that many of those things will go completely unheeded because they were never written up because of the pace and speed of war and ... the constant pressure to keep going," Kirby said. "Many heroic acts never got — never got noticed, never got written up, never got submitted."

Hagel received two Purple Hearts and the Combat Infantryman Badge during his service as an Army infantry squad leader in Vietnam.

"[Hagel] believes it is imperative that DOD conduct this review as we conclude combat operations

in Afghanistan," Kirby said.

Another aim of the study is to consider whether to create more uniformity among the services when it comes to recognizing valor.

"There are some awards and medals you get that are service-unique [such as the Navy Cross]. It's a fair question to ask: Do we need to look at the kinds of awards that we give, particularly for combat valor, in a more joint nature than perhaps some of them are? It doesn't mean that there will be changes, but I think [Hagel] wants to look at everything across the whole scope," Kirby said.

The services don't always use the same criteria when judging whether a combat veteran is worthy of receiving an award. The Marine Corps, in particular, has been accused of being stingy when it comes to approving medals for valor.

"[Hagel] wants to examine the degree to which the services sub-

mit and evaluate and decide on major combat awards. I think he would like to get a better sense of what discrepancies there may be between the services and do those discrepancies need to be closed. The answer may be no, but I think he wants to ask those questions," Kirby said.

Hagel realizes that the awards system will always be imperfect, regardless of what changes are made.

"It's not a science, and I don't think he's trying to make it a science. But he does think it's time, after 13 years of war, to take a fresh look at how we think about this," according to Kirby. "He recognizes that [it] will always be a subjective process. But I think he wants to have a better understanding of that process and the ways in which it may ... be improved going forward."

Information from The Associated Press was used in this report. harperjon@stripes.com Twitter: @JHarperStripes

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## MILITARY

# Gunmen attack upscale Kabul hotel; 13 dead

BY JOSH SMITH  
AND ZUBAIR BABAKARKHAIL  
Stars and Stripes

**KABUL** — The teenage gunmen moved from table to table firing pistols point-blank at diners celebrating Persian new year, while other guests fled in terror. At the end of a night of carnage, 13 people were dead, including the four assailants and at least two children.

The Thursday night attack on the luxurious Serena Hotel, one of the most heavily guarded private facilities in the city, stunned the capital's foreign diplomats, aid workers, nongovernmental organizations and well-heeled Afghans, who had made it a center of the city's rapidly disappearing social scene.

Among the dead was a Paraguayan who had come to monitor the April 5 presidential election and a respected Afghan journalist working for the French news agency AFP, his wife and two of his children.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, raising fears of more violence ahead of the election to replace President Hamid Karzai, who has led Afghanistan since the 2001 U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban regime. The assault followed a recent suicide attack on a mar-

ket in northern Afghanistan, the January bombing of a Lebanese restaurant favored by foreigners and the daylight assassination of a Swedish journalist on a street in one of Kabul's most secure neighborhoods. Earlier Thursday, 10 Afghan policemen were killed in attacks in Jalalabad.

Afghan authorities said the assailants penetrated layers of security at the hotel including high walls, armed guards and metal detectors, full-body pat downs and bomb-sniffing dogs, smuggling the weapons in their socks or shoes, police said.

Within seconds, hotel guards shepherd guests into safe rooms where they sat for hours wondering what was happening beyond the doors, said one American who asked not to be named for security reasons.

The U.S. National Democratic Institute said in Washington that it was reviewing its presence in Afghanistan after one of its election monitors, former diplomat Luis Maria Duarte of Paraguay, was killed in the attack.

The spokesman for the Kabul police, Hashmat Stanakzai, said it took security forces three hours to kill the four gunmen. He said the dead included four foreigners, although nationalities were unclear. However, the Toronto Sun reported two Canadian develop-



ANIA NIEDRINGHAUS/AP

**Security personnel gesture to a photographer not to take pictures at an entrance of the Serena Hotel in Kabul on Friday. Four men attacked the hotel Thursday, shooting and killing nine people, officials said.**

ment workers were killed.

Five people were wounded, including a member of parliament, and an unidentified foreigner, Stanakzai said.

The AFP news agency said its Afghan correspondent, Sardar Ahmad, his wife and three children had gone to the hotel for new year's celebrations. A son and daughter died, and their infant son was undergoing treatment for serious wounds, AFP said.

"This is an immensely painful and enormous loss," AFP chairman Emmanuel Hoog said in a statement released in Paris.

Surviving guests said when they left the safe rooms, they saw police removing the bodies from the bloodstained lobby.

How exactly the four gunmen, some as young as 18, entered the heavily guarded hotel Thursday

night remains unclear. Investigators say they are looking to see if the attackers had inside help.

Like the Taliban-claimed attack on the Lebanese restaurant that killed 21 people, the attack on the Serena sent shock waves through Kabul's large community of foreigners and wealthy Afghans, many of whom can afford to retreat into fortified compounds.

While foreigners in Baghdad were comparatively safe inside the "Green Zone," Kabul has no such fortified area of the city. But the Serena is as close to a safe zone as there is for most of Kabul's civilian NGO workers, journalists and affluent Afghans.

The hotel's high walls and heavily guarded gates hide an oasis where waiters cater to guests lounging by an aquamarine swim-

ming pool or holding meetings in courtyards shaded by trees. The hotel has been a bubble within what some call "Kabubble" that separates the relatively wealthy and calm capital city from the rest of war-torn Afghanistan.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid claimed responsibility for the brazen attack on the Serena Hotel, saying it had been carefully planned to kill members of parliament.

He denied targeting civilians, insisting that those in the hotel were fair targets.

"We haven't targeted civilians; the hotel was full of people and only those were targeted who were foreigners, government people or those who work for Westerners," he told Stars and Stripes.

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# Navy puzzled by Iran's replica of US aircraft carrier

BY HENDRICK SIMOES  
Stars and Stripes

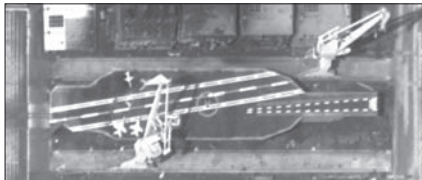
**MANAMA, Bahrain** — Iran is building a replica of a Nimitz-class aircraft carrier at a shipyard on the Persian Gulf near the Strait of Hormuz, U.S. 5th Fleet officials said.

The mock-up of the aircraft carrier was first noticed last summer, 5th Fleet officials said, but it wasn't until February that they saw the number 68 painted on it — the same number as the USS Nimitz, which was deployed in the region last summer.

"It's interesting to us that they would be building something like this ... this is a head-scratcher more than anything," said Cmdr. Jason Salata, 5th Fleet spokesman. He said the Navy is not particularly concerned about it.

The New York Times first reported on the mysterious vessel on Thursday.

A recent commercial satellite image shows the vessel with similar lines painted on top of it that a real aircraft carrier might have.



Courtesy of DigitalGlobe

**This satellite photo shows the replica Nimitz-class aircraft carrier that Iran is building at a shipyard on the Persian Gulf. U.S. 5th Fleet officials are puzzled by its purpose.**

There also appear to be three aircraft atop the structure.

Officials believe the mock-up is comprised of barges with steel construction to replicate the hull, and superstructure of a carrier. It's about two-thirds the size of an actual Nimitz-class carrier, which is about 1,092 feet in length.

Navy officials said they are sure it's not a real aircraft carrier, but they are puzzled about

Iran's intent in replicating such a large American warship.

"If it's designed for strategic effect, to what effect?" Salata said. The New York Times suggested Iran might use it to make a propaganda point, possibly to fire a missile at it as part a training exercise to be broadcast on state-run media.

Other countries, including the United States, have used land

runways to simulate carrier operations. China has even built a mock-up of its sole carrier atop a training building near Wuhan, about 400 miles inland from the East China Sea. That facility appears intended to train crews in handling aircraft, logistics and weapons, as well as hangar placements.

The continuing rapprochement between Iran and the United States and its Western allies has been highlighted by the interim nuclear deal reached last November by which Tehran agreed to halt certain nuclear activities in exchange for limited relief from sanctions. Negotiations are continuing on a comprehensive accord that would ensure that Iran's civilian nuclear program could not be used for military purposes.

As talks on Iran's nuclear program continue next month in Vienna, the political and security situations in the Persian Gulf region remain delicate. Despite the winding down of the war in

Afghanistan, U.S. officials have sought in recent months to reassure Gulf allies that the U.S. is fully committed to the region, irking Iranian officials who question America's motives.

Earlier this month Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif criticized the U.S. military posture in the Persian Gulf in a meeting with reporters in Tokyo.

"We do not believe presence of foreign forces is conducive to security," he said.

This spring, two more U.S. Coastal Patrol ships are expected to homeport at the U.S. naval base in Bahrain, which is in the midst of a \$260 million expansion.

The U.S. Navy is not seeking confrontation in the Gulf, said Salata.

"We feel that there is a balance of force that we need to do our mission," which Navy officials commonly describe as partnering with allies in the region for maritime security.

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## MILITARY



ADAN P. CAMPBELL/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The aircraft carrier USS Gerald R. Ford transits the James River headed to Newport News Shipyard's pier three for the final stages of construction and testing.

# Ford carrier enters new outfitting phase

By HUGH LESSIG

(Newport News, Va.) Daily Press

**NEWPORT NEWS**—The hoopla of its christening long gone, the aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford has entered a new outfitting phase at Newport News Shipbuilding.

And despite criticisms of key systems, the Navy likes what it sees—so far.

“We’re kind of in the infancy stage of the test program, and the early returns are good,” said Rear Adm. Tom Moore, the program executive officer of aircraft carriers. “We have a long way to go.”

Christened in November, the Ford is a first-in-class aircraft carrier with a variety of new systems, including those that launch and recover aircraft. Because so much is new, its 26-month test/integra-

tion phase is about three months longer than that of the current Nimitz-class carriers.

Why longer? One example of the Ford’s complexity is the electromagnetic launch system, designed to propel aircraft off the deck more smoothly than steam-driven catapults employed on the current Nimitz class.

The steam-powered catapults can be tested separately. The Ford’s electromagnetic system functions as an integrated whole, with three “energy storage groups” providing power to the four tracks. If one group fails, the other two can compensate.

The system takes longer to evaluate because components cannot be tested individually.

But work is clearly proceeding throughout the 77,000-ton ship,

with sailors and shipbuilders working side by side. So far, according to Moore:

■ About 6.6 million feet of cable has been installed. The carrier will have more than 9 million feet when complete.

■ 29 of the 33 fire pumps are up and running.

■ Five of the nine air conditioning plants have been tested. That might not be a big deal during this brutal winter, but the ship should be fully air conditioned by summer.

■ Of the more than 2,600 various spaces on the ship, about 200 have been completed. The Navy has accepted 135 of those, and that number is increasing every week.

As of last week, the Ford’s onboard crew numbered 737 — 76 officers and 661 enlisted. When it

goes to sea, the ship will have about 2,500 crewmembers, not including an air wing. That’s about 700 less than a Nimitz-class carrier.

The test phase will be closely watched because key systems on the Ford have come under scrutiny from government watchdogs.

In September, the Government Accountability Office said the Ford may continue to experience problems after it joins the fleet because major systems lack reliability. An internal assessment from the Pentagon released earlier this year raised similar questions.

One focus of both reports was that electromagnetic launch system.

The Navy has defended the new launch system, saying the concerns have been overstated. On the Ford, all of the below-deck

equipment for the system has been installed and work has begun on the catapult troughs on the flight deck, Moore said.

Moore said he expects the launch system to be turned on for the first time in August. A second milestone should happen in October or November of 2015 when the Ford launches a series of weighted sleds into the James River, simulating the take-off of a fighter jet.

As work proceeds on Ford, the next carrier in the class is already taking shape at Newport News. Massive sections of CVN-79, to be named for John F. Kennedy, are now in the shipyard.

Moore said current work on the Ford should help both the Navy and the shipyard when it comes time to prepare the Kennedy for service.

## Sinclair: Some say sentence sends ‘chilling message’

FROM FRONT PAGE

“The misuse of government funds should be enough to fire Gen. Sinclair,” Speier said. “There are plenty of former government employees who have been canned for less.”

Greg Jacob, a former Marine and current policy director for Service Women’s Action Network, said the case illustrates why prosecution authority should be removed from the defendant and victim’s chain of command, as proposed in a bill by Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y.

“Today’s sentencing is reflective of a case that fell apart long before today,” Jacob said. “The Gen. Sinclair case will go down in history as yet another reason we need Sen. Gillibrand’s Military Justice Improvement Act.”

The bill failed to reach the threshold necessary to overcome a filibuster in the Senate, but Gillibrand has vowed to keep fighting until a similar measure passes.

Sexual assaults can be hard to prosecute, and the Sinclair case is particularly complicated, said Sarah Feldman, a spokeswoman for Sen. Claire McCaskill, who opposed Gillibrand’s legislation but pushed for a slate of other significant changes to the military justice system.

Still, the case highlights “what

we already know: that commanders are often more aggressive than prosecutors in pursuing prosecutions and vetting those cases,” Feldman said.

Rep. Mike Turner, R-Ohio, the co-chair of the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus, said he is deeply disappointed by the sentence.

“This unfortunate outcome bolsters our call to increase mandatory minimum sentencing in cases of sexual assault and sexual misconduct,” he said.

Rep. Niki Tsongas, D-Mass., who serves as the other co-chair of the Military Sexual Assault Prevention Caucus, said she was shocked when she heard Sinclair’s sentence.

“Military leaders must be held to a higher standard, but this sentence undermines that standard of accountability,” Tsongas said. “It is clear that Brig. Gen. Sinclair abused his authority and perpetuated a toxic military culture that is accepting of unprofessional, inappropriate and criminal behavior.”

The case will send a “chilling message” to victims of sexual assault and likely discourage them from reporting attacks, said Nancy Parrish, president of Protect Our Defenders.

“The military’s promises of ‘zero tolerance’ for sexual offenses continue to ring hollow as yet an-

other high-ranking official is let off the hook,” Parrish said. “This case demonstrates how high-ranking bad, abusive and even unlawful behavior is tolerated. The level of tolerance is too often dictated by the number of stars you have on your shoulders.”

Mallika Dutt, president and CEO of Breakthrough, a human rights organization, said the sentence also sends a clear — and troubling — message about violence against women.

“We look to our military to at the very least uphold their own values of honor, integrity, respect and more. It is deeply disappointing when instead they are seen to uphold the cultural norms that say women are less-than, inferior, dispensable,” Dutt said. “This is the very culture that allows discrimination and violence against women and girls to continue.”

Military leaders have made efforts to address sexual assault in the ranks, including working with Congress to implement changes to the way the military justice system handles the assaults and helps victims.

But, said Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm. John Kirby, military leaders know they must do better.

“We take the crime of sexual assault very, very seriously,” he said Thursday.

Kirby declined to comment on



ELLEN OZIER/AP

Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Sinclair, center, arrives at the courthouse for sentencing at Fort Bragg, N.C., on Thursday.

the Sinclair case or sentence but said leaders are concerned about victim confidence in the system and about “the ability of leadership and the system itself — the justice system itself — in making sure that those who are found guilty are held properly accountable.”

Also Thursday, a Naval Academy football player accused of sexually assaulting a female midshipman during an off-campus party in 2012 was found not guilty.

The academy superintendent previously decided not to prosecute two other midshipmen who had originally been accused of sexual assault in the case. The

case raised more questions about whether victims should feel comfortable reporting assaults.

But, Kirby said, despite such high-profile examples of acquittals or cases that do not go to trial, “there are plenty of other cases that go all the way to trial and get convictions.”

“And look,” he said, “prosecutions and convictions, while important in terms of holding people accountable, that’s not the ultimate goal here. The ultimate goal here is zero sexual assaults in the military. That’s what we’re after.”

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## MILITARY

# DOD weighing taking over background checks

By CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon is moving toward taking back responsibility for vetting security-clearance applicants, a process that has come under increased scrutiny since investigators found widespread problems that they said contributed to national security threats.

Officials said the idea, which is under review by Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel, would allow the department better control of

background checks, now done largely by the Office of Personnel Management.

The OPM's background investigations have been criticized as rushed and incomplete, and the main contractor in charge of the work for the agency is facing a whistleblower lawsuit. The suit, which the Justice Department has joined, alleges that the company "dumped," or submitted incomplete background checks, in 665,000 cases in 4½ years to meet performance incentives and reduce backlogs.

Pentagon reviews released Tuesday concluded that the September shooting incident at the Navy Yard, committed by a former Navy servicemember who was working as a defense contractor, could have been prevented. The reviews said Navy personnel and supervisors at Experts Inc., which employed shooter Aaron Alexis at the time, missed several opportunities that could have prevented him from obtaining a security clearance.

One of those reviews, an independent report ordered by Hagel,

criticized the OPM, saying that its process "lacks transparency" and that its "contract investigators reduce investigations to checklists." The report urged the Pentagon, which pays the OPM \$800 million annually for background checks, to perform the checks in-house, as the State Department does.

In the meantime, the report said, the Pentagon should deploy case managers immediately to work with OPM investigators "to improve the quality of investigations and adjudications."

OPM Director Katherine Ar-

chuleta said in a statement that since she took over the agency in November, the issue has been "a priority." "It is essential that we continue to identify areas to strengthen the background investigation program and take the steps necessary to improve the process," she said.

She has been vocal about holding accountable USIS, the contractor that does most of the OPM background investigations, and has said that her agency is working closely with the Justice Department on its investigation.

## Feds probe financier's business dealings

By RICHARD LARDNER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department is investigating a flamboyant Wall Street financier who won millions of dollars in military contracts and then hired the Army officer who is suspected of steering the money her way.

Interviews and documents obtained by The Associated Press portray entrepreneur Lynn Tilton and Col. Bert Vezge as being in unusually close contact for more than a year before Vezge retired from the Army in late 2012. Among the allegations is that Vezge provided Tilton with details about upcoming contracts to give her company, MD Helicopters of Mesa, Ariz., an advantage over the competition. No charges have been filed.

Vezge went to work for Tilton less than three months after hanging up his uniform. The Justice Department is examining whether his hiring breached

"revolving door" rules that require federal officials to wait a year or more before receiving compensation from a company they had dealings with while employed by the government, according to people knowledgeable of the inquiry but not authorized to be identified as the sources of the information. Vezge's ties to two Russian businessmen also are being investigated.

AP last week sent a list of questions to Davidson Goldin, a spokesman for Tilton and her company. Goldin declined to comment. Vezge did not return emails and telephone calls. Justice Department spokeswoman Allison Price said the department had no



COURTESY OF THE U.S. ARMY/AP

**Retired Army Col. Bert Vezge, center, receives his charter to manage the Project Officer for Non-Standard Rotary Wing Aircraft, from now-Maj. Gen. William Crosby, right, and Randy Harkins, former deputy project manager of NSRWA, in January 2010.**

comment on the investigation.

The allegations run counter to the by-the-bootstraps image Tilton has cultivated since founding the private equity firm Patriarch Partners in 2000. With her platinum blonde hair and trademark stiletto heels, the Bronx, N.Y.-born Tilton relishes her role as a maverick in the buttoned-down world of finance. Her portfolio includes MD Helicopters and 74 other companies that employ 120,000 people and generate more than \$8 billion in revenue. Tilton's biography posted on Patriarch's web site attributes her success to a "tireless work ethic, innovative spirit and an unwavering quest for truth and light where others see hopelessness."

The investigation offers a window into the fiercely competitive arena of government contracting. Boeing, a defense industry giant, sought information last year about the circumstances of Vezge's hiring, a request one of Tilton's lawyers viewed as an attempt to intimidate the smaller MD Helicopters, documents show.

At the time, Boeing and MD Helicopters were locked in a legal battle. The dispute stemmed from a 2005 arrangement under which Boeing would offer a helicopter for an Army contract that was based on an airframe designed by MD Helicopters. Boeing didn't win, and the program later was cancelled. When the Army launched a successor program, known as the Armed Aerial Scout, Boeing argued the previous arrangement still applied and MD Helicopters should be barred from competing.

David Ruppert, then general

counsel for MD Helicopters, rebuffed the request and rebuked Boeing for trying to bully Tilton's company into settling the dispute. In a letter to Boeing senior counsel Anthony Tumminello, Ruppert called the inquiry a "baseless insinuation of improper conduct." He warned Tumminello that if Boeing "disseminates any false allegations of misconduct," Tilton's company "will vigorously seek to hold Boeing fully accountable."

John Dern, a spokesman for Boeing, declined to comment. Ruppert did not return telephone calls.

On a separate but parallel track, the FBI and Defense Criminal Investigative Service are conducting an inquiry into Vezge's connections to Russian businessman Pavel Borisov, and his father and business partner, Yuri.

The probe is focused on why the Army acquisition office in Huntsville, Ala., that Vezge ran kept dealing with the Borisovs even though they had a dismal performance record on a contract to overhaul Russian Mi-17 helicopters.

Despite the inquiry, Vezge pushed his new employer to appoint Pavel Borisov as its sales representative in Russia, Ukraine and nine other former Soviet republics, according to internal company emails.

Government attorneys have instructed Tilton and her companies to turn over a broad range of records, including Tilton's phone and expense records and communications between her, her employees and Vezge that discussed his potential employment.

## Pentagon's February contracts plummeted in extended slump

By JONATHAN D. SALANT

Bloomberg News

WASHINGTON — Pentagon contracts dropped 48 percent in February, extending a slump that has awards near the lowest level in almost two years.

The Defense Department announced contracts with a maximum value of \$12 billion last month, compared with \$23.1 billion a year earlier, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. They fell to \$8.44 billion in January, the worst showing in at least 23 months.

Military officials "have sent a very clear message that they are going to be curtailing spending," said Larry Allen, president of Allen Federal Business Partners, a consulting firm based in McLean, Va. "And when they do spend, they're going to do so with a very close eye on price."

The delay in enacting a permanent federal spending bill and snowstorms that closed the government also contributed to the low contract awards in both January and February, Allen said.

"It takes a while, even after Congress acts, for everything to filter its way down to the individual accounts," he said.

The government had been funded under a temporary spending bill that restricted new federal contracts and projects from mid-October through much of January. Those limits ended after President Barack Obama on Jan. 17 signed a \$1.1 trillion measure

funding the government through Sept. 30.

While last month's announced contracts declined from a year earlier, they rose 42 percent from January. The Defense Department is required to announce contracts of at least \$6.5 million.

Last month's largest award, a \$2.07 billion contract modification, went to Chicago-based Boeing for 16 P-8A Poseidon aircraft. The Navy has set aside funds for the entire amount.

The Feb. 25 award is in addition to 13 P-8As already delivered. The Navy eventually plans to buy 117 of the planes to replace its Lockheed Martin Corp. P-3 Orion aircraft.

"This contract reflects the success of the program and enables us to continue delivering an advanced, cost-effective maritime patrol aircraft," Rick Heerd, a Boeing vice president, said in a press release.

The plane is used for patrols at sea, including anti-submarine and surveillance missions. The Pentagon dispatched a P-8 last week to search the Bay of Bengal to help in the international search for Flight 370, the missing Malaysian jetliner.

The third-largest agreement was a \$655.4 million Army contract to Waltham, Mass.-based Raytheon Co. for new fire units for a Patriot air- and missile-defense system in Kuwait. The contract was awarded under the government's Foreign Military Sales program.

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## NATION

# IRS official warns of big phone scam

By JOSH HICKS  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service's watchdog warned taxpayers Thursday about a sophisticated nationwide phone scheme that it said is "the largest scam of its kind" it has seen.

The scheme involves callers claiming to represent the IRS and demanding immediate payments with a prepaid debit card or wire transfer, the watchdog said.

Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration Russell George said that "thousands of victims" have paid more than \$1 million to fraudsters and that his agency has received more than 20,000 reports of contact.

The callers have used much of the same script, TIGTA officials said.

Officials also said that the callers often know the last four digits of the victims' Social Security numbers, and they threaten arrest, deportation and the revoking of driver's licenses — something the IRS is not authorized to do — to try to force compliance.

"If someone unexpectedly calls claiming to be from the IRS and uses threatening language if you don't pay immediately, that is a sign that it really isn't the IRS calling," George said in a statement.

The callers use common names and fake IRS badge numbers, in addition to manipulating caller IDs, to appear more legitimate, officials say. Some also follow up with false IRS emails and with phone calls in which they pretend to represent the police or motor vehicles officials, TIGTA said.

The IRS generally contacts taxpayers first by mail or with personal visits from field agents, and it does not accept credit card information by phone, officials said.

The scam, which the IRS first identified in August, started out targeting immigrants, but the callers are now going after people of all backgrounds, officials said.

"The increasing number of people receiving these unsolicited calls from individuals who fraudulently claim to represent the IRS is alarming," George said.

The Secret Service, which deals with financial crimes in addition to protecting national leaders and their families, is investigating the scam, alongside local law enforcement agencies.

## 'Widow's mandate' lawmakers tend to follow spouses' voting patterns

By CHRISTOPHER INGRAHAM  
The Washington Post

If Debbie Dingell succeeds her husband, John, in Michigan's 12th Congressional District — as seems likely — it will mark a slightly odd milestone: She'll be the first woman to take over her husband's seat while the husband is still alive.

Plenty of women have inherited their husband's seats. Forty-seven to be exact — eight in the Senate and 39 in the House. But according to Debbie Walsh of the Center for American Women and Politics at Rutgers University, in each of those instances, the woman took over the seat after her husband had passed away. The mechanics are slightly different for the

House and the Senate — empty House seats are filled via a special election, while Senate seats are typically filled via appointment. "Widow's succession," or the "widow's mandate," is the technical term for when an empty seat is filled by the spouse of the deceased legislator.

"Widow's succession used to be the way that women got into Congress, with very few exceptions," explained Walsh. The practice peaked in the mid-20th century. "There was a period when you could look at all the women serving in Congress and a majority had initially gotten in that way." The practice has declined since but still persists — Reps. Lois Capps, D-Calif., and Doris Mat-

sui, D-Calif., are the only two women currently in Congress who initially inherited their husbands' seats.

The idea behind the practice was continuity, the notion that the women would complete the work their husbands started. "For the parties, these women were placeholders," Walsh said. "The idea was to get somebody in and then regroup and keep intraparty fights from happening."

I was curious whether it worked out this way in practice: Did the widows govern similarly to their husbands while in office? One way to get at this question is to look at the comparative ideological leanings of both spouses while in office. For each husband-wife pair,

stepped its authority by attempting to interfere in the Intelligence Committee's investigation into the CIA's controversial interrogation program. The results of the years-long investigation may be released in the coming weeks.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., who leads the intelligence panel, first publicly accused the CIA of interfering in her investigation during a dramatic Senate floor speech last week. Aides said that Reid had been directly conveying his own concerns about the situation to Brennan during their regular intelligence briefings.

Reid used his letter to Brennan to reiterate his concerns and to ask that the CIA grant Gainer and his staff proper security clearances and access to computers used by committee staffers to access millions of documents describing the interrogation program. As part of the investigation, the CIA agreed to set up a bank of computers at a secret facility in Northern Virginia for investigators to review operational cables,

executive memos and other files on the interrogation program.

Reid in his letter also rejected as "patently absurd" suggestions by Brennan that committee staffers improperly accessed classified information about the agency and the interrogation program. "To my knowledge, the CIA has produced no evidence to support its claims that Senate committee staff who have no technical training somehow hacked into the CIA's highly secure classified networks," he said.

As part of the dispute, CIA officials have referred the matter to the Justice Department.

Holder told reporters Wednesday that the Justice Department is reviewing the CIA's referral of the case, but he would not say whether the department has decided to investigate the matter.

In his letter to Holder, Reid asked that the department "carefully examine" the accusations leveled by the Senate Intelligence Committee and the CIA against each other.



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., left, talks with Nevada governor Brian Sandoval before speaking at a news conference Thursday in Las Vegas.

Julie Jacobson/AP

## Reid seeks Senate probe of computers used to review CIA interrogation effort

By ED O'KEEFE  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The tussle between the Senate and the CIA escalated Thursday when Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., asked the Senate's top law enforcement official to review computers used by Senate Intelligence Committee staffers to probe the spy agency's controversial interrogation program.

Reid has asked the Senate's sergeant at arms, Terrance Gainer, who has oversight of the U.S. Capitol Police, to lead a review of an incident that prompted senators and the CIA to accuse each other of illegal activity and led both sides to ask the Justice Department to investigate the matter.

Reid's request for a Senate investigation was revealed in letters sent late Wednesday to CIA Director John Brennan and Attorney General Eric Holder Jr. and comes as aides say Reid has grown convinced that the CIA over-

I looked at ideology scores developed by political scientists Keith Poole and Howard Rosenthal. Because these scores are derived from legislators' voting records, they serve as a useful proxy for overall governing behavior.

In most cases, wives do in fact govern similarly to their husbands — on average, wives' ideological scores are slightly more liberal than their spouses, but not by much. California's Mary Bono is notable among recent widows for being significantly more conservative than her husband, Sonny. The greatest spousal ideological differences occurred in the early part of the 20th century — of the five largest ideology score differences, four were from women who

took office in the 1920s and 1930s.

Moreover, in the 1920s and 1930s, women tended to govern closer to the center than their husbands — Democratic women were more conservative than their husbands, while Republican women were more liberal. But this trend fades after that point. Conversely, since the 1970s, most of the widows have generally governed similarly to their husbands.

Which brings us back to Deborah Dingell, a Democrat. If the recent trends hold true, it's safe to assume she won't make any radical departures from her husband's record. On the other hand, by taking office while her husband is still alive, she's in somewhat uncharted territory.



## NATION

# With health law, workers weigh option to quit

By CARLA K. JOHNSON  
The Associated Press

CHICAGO — For uninsured people, the nation's new health care law may offer an escape from worry about unexpected, astronomical medical bills. But for Stephanie Payne of St. Louis, who already had good insurance, the law could offer another kind of escape: the chance to quit her job.

At 62, Payne has worked for three decades as a nurse, most recently traveling house to house caring for 30 elderly and disabled patients. But she's ready to leave that behind, including the job-based health benefits, to move to Oregon and to promote her self-published book. She envisions herself blogging, doing radio interviews and speaking to seniors' groups.

"I want the freedom to fit that

into my day without squeezing it into my day," she said.

One of the selling points of the new health care plan, which has a March 31 enrollment deadline, is that it breaks the link between affordable health insurance and having a job with benefits. Payne believes she'll be able to replace her current coverage with a \$400- to \$500-per-month plan on Oregon's version of the new insurance exchange system set up under the law.

Federal experts believe the new insurance option will be a powerful temptation for a lot of job-weary workers ready to bail out. Last month, congressional budget analysts estimated that within 10 years, the equivalent of 2.5 million full-time workers could be working less because of the expanded coverage.

But is the new option a gamble? That's a matter of debate, not only

among the politicians who are still arguing furiously over the law's merits, but among economists and industry experts.

"We don't know what the future of exchange insurance will be," said economist Douglas Holtz-Eakin, president of the American Action Forum, a center-right public policy institute. Premiums should remain stable if enrollment picks up and broadens to include younger, healthier people. But if older, sicker people are the vast majority of customers, prices eventually could spike.

For Mike Morucci, 50, the idea of leaving his information technology job and its health benefits is "terrifying," he said.

But he decided to take the plunge after reviewing the range of coverage available at different price points. Tax credits will help those with moderate incomes pay their insurance premiums. And

coverage is guaranteed even for those with pre-existing conditions. Twenty-five states also agreed to expand their Medicaid programs, providing health care for more low-income people.

"It definitely freed up my thinking when I thought, 'Do I want to give this a go?'" Morucci, of Ellington City, Md.

Morucci has been writing scripts at night and on weekends for four years and is on a team of writers for a web-based comedy series titled "Click!" launching this spring. Before giving notice at the job he had held for 18 years, he made a spreadsheet of health plans available on the Maryland exchange and found one for \$650 per month to cover him and his 23-year-old daughter.

"I turned 50, so for me it's time to focus on my passion instead of my paycheck," he said.



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Stephanie Payne, of St. Louis, plans to retire early from her nursing career and to take advantage of health care coverage offered through the Affordable Care Act, allowing her spend more time pursuing other interests while not being tied to employer-sponsored coverage.



OSKAR GARCIA/AP

A pedestrian walks in front of a Honolulu Police Department station in Honolulu's tourist area of Waikiki on Wednesday.

## Hawaii law permits police to have sex with prostitutes

By SAM EIFLING  
The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Honolulu police officers have urged lawmakers to keep an exemption to state law that allows undercover officers to have sex with prostitutes during investigations, touching off a heated debate.

Authorities say they need the legal protection to catch lawbreakers in the act. Critics, including human trafficking experts and other police, say it's unnecessary and could further victimize sex workers, many of whom have been forced into the trade.

Police haven't said how often — or even if — they use the provision. And when they asked legislators to preserve it, they made assurances that internal policies and procedures are in place to

prevent officers from taking advantage of it.

But expert Derek Marsh said the exemption is "antiquated at best" and that police can easily do without it.

"It doesn't help your case, and at worst you further traumatize someone. And do you think he or she is going to trust a cop again?" asked Marsh, who trains California police in best practices on human trafficking cases and twice has testified to Congress about the issue.

A Hawaii bill cracking down on prostitution originally was written to scrap the sex exemption for officers on duty. It was amended to restore that protection after police testimony. The revised proposal passed the state House and will go before a Senate committee Friday.

It's not immediately clear whether similar provisions are in place elsewhere as state law or department policy. But advocates were shocked that Hawaii exempts police from its prostitution laws, suggesting it's an invitation for misconduct.

"Police abuse is part of the life of prostitution," said Melissa Farley, the executive director of the San Francisco-based group Prostitution Research and Education. Farley said that in places without such police protections "women who have escaped prostitution" commonly report being coerced into giving police sexual favors to keep from being arrested.

The Hawaii bill aims to ratchet up penalties on johns and pimps. Selling sex would remain a petty misdemeanor.

## Black preschoolers more likely to face suspension

By KIMBERLY HEFLING  
AND JESSE J. HOLLAND  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Black students are more likely to be suspended from U.S. public schools — even as tiny preschoolers.

The racial disparities in American education, from access to high-level classes and experienced teachers to disciplining, were highlighted in a report released Friday by the Education Department's civil rights arm.

The suspensions — and disparities — begin at the earliest grades.

Black children represent about 18 percent of children enrolled in preschool programs in schools, but almost half of the students suspended more than once, the report said. Six percent of the nation's districts with preschools reported suspending at least one preschool child.

Advocates long have said get-tough suspension and arrest policies in schools have contributed to a "school-to-prison" pipeline that snags minority students, but much of the emphasis has been on middle school and high school policies. This was the first time the department reported data on preschool discipline.

Earlier this year, the Obama administration issued guidance encouraging schools to abandon what it described as overly zealous discipline policies that send students to court instead of the principal's office. But even before the announcement, school districts have been adjusting policies that disproportionately affect minority students.

Overall, the data show that black students of all ages are suspended and expelled at a rate that's three times higher than that of white children. Even as boys receive more than two-thirds of

suspensions, black girls are suspended at higher rates than girls of any other race or most boys.

The data don't explain why the disparities exist nor why the students were suspended.

"It is clear that the United States has a great distance to go to meet our goal of providing opportunities for every student to succeed," Education Secretary Arne Duncan said in a statement.

"This critical report shows that racial disparities in school discipline policies are not only well documented among older students, but actually begin during preschool," Attorney General Eric Holder said. "Every data point represents a life impacted and a future potentially diverted or derailed. This administration is moving aggressively to disrupt the school-to-prison pipeline in order to ensure that all of our young people have equal educational opportunities."

Nationally, 1 million children were served in public preschool programs, with about 60 percent of districts offering preschool during the 2011-2012 school year, according to the data. The data show nearly 5,000 preschoolers were suspended once. At least 2,500 were suspended more than once.

Daniel Losen, director of the Center for Civil Rights Remedies for the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, said the findings are disturbing because the suspended preschoolers aren't likely presenting a danger, such as teenagers bringing a gun to school.

"Almost none of these kids are kids that wouldn't be better off with some support from educators," Losen said. "Just kicking them out of school is denying them access to educational opportunity at such a young age. Then, as they come in for kindergarten, they are just that much less prepared."

## NATION

# Calif. rampage, Ore. death may be linked

By JEFF BARNARD  
The Associated Press

GRANTS PASS, Ore. — Investigators are trying to determine if a suspect's path of bloodshed started with the slaying of an elderly Oregon man. They know it ended with his death in a police shootout on the Northern California coast, shortly after he killed a sheriff's deputy.

The cause of the rampage remained unclear Thursday, Mendocino County, Calif., Sheriff's Capt. Greg Van Patten said as colleagues mourned one of their own. "Today is much harder than yesterday to grasp," he said.

In addition to the shootout in California, Eugene, Ore., police said Ricardo Antonio Chaney, 32, was also "more likely than not" responsible for the slaying of George Bundy Wasson, 79, a retired University of Oregon anthropology instructor and Coquille Tribe elder.

Eugene police spokesman Melinda McLaughlin said he was found shot to death in his burning house early Wednesday morning.

McLaughlin would not divulge any more details of the slaying of Wasson, who lived alone. Chaney

**'Unfortunately, my aim wasn't too good. If I had been better then he might not have made it to do what he did later.'**

**John Mills**  
survived shooting by Ricardo Antonio Chaney

had been considered a person of interest by police because he knew Wasson's family.

Less than an hour after the fire was discovered, police said, Chaney pulled a gun on two men in their 20s outside their home near the university's football stadium, located about 5 miles away, and sped off in their 2006 black BMW 330i sedan. Initially forced into the trunk, the men managed to escape in the parking lot and called 911.

Two weeks earlier, police had questioned Chaney after tracing a stolen cellphone to the location where he was living in his car next to a city park, according to the police website.

After impounding the car, police searched it and found some methamphetamine, several guns, including a modified AR-15 as-

sault-style rifle, and body armor. Chaney was booked into the jail but released the same day without being charged.

The district attorney did not respond to an email asking why no charges were filed, but Lane County has had to lay off prosecutors due to declining funding.

About 10 hours after the carjacking, the sheriff's office received a call from an employee of Confusion Hill, a California tourist attraction along Highway 101, about 180 miles north of San



Chaney

Francisco, that offers train rides through redwoods.

John Mills, 55, a front-desk worker, said he had found a man — later identified by authorities as Chaney — urinating outside a bathroom in a fenced park area. When Mills told him to leave, Chaney cursed and briefly drove away, but then returned with a double-barreled shotgun, Mills said.

"Things went sideways from there," said Mills, who grabbed a baton and hit the shotgun as the attacker came through the entrance, causing the weapon to fire a round into the ground.

Mills said Chaney then pointed the shotgun directly at him. Mills said he dropped down and rolled into a kitchen door as another round was fired. He said Chaney got a pistol from the kitchen and shot back at Chaney, who fled to his car and drove away.

"Unfortunately, my aim wasn't too good. If I had been better, then he might not have made it to do what he did later," Mills told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Chaney was spotted about an hour later by a deputy but got away during a chase that reached speeds of more than 100 mph.

He was encountered by police officer Del Fiorentino in Cleone, a rural area with a mix of homes, forest and open fields, a little before noon Wednesday, about 12 hours since Wasson was found dead. Allman said Chaney opened fire with an AK-47-style assault rifle, spraying Del Fiorentino's vehicle with bullets and killing the officer.

Port Bragg police Lt. John Naulty, who was searching for Chaney nearby, heard the gunfire and found Chaney going through the deputy's vehicle, the sheriff said. Chaney fired six or seven rounds at Naulty, who returned fire, Allman said. Chaney was later found dead.

Del Fiorentino, once a wrestling coach at Port Bragg High School, began as a deputy with Mendocino County in 1988. He spent 10 years with the Port Bragg Police Department before returning to the sheriff's office in 2000.

The investigation was turned over to the Mendocino County District Attorney's office and it could take weeks before any findings are released, spokesman Mike Geniella said. Autopsies were scheduled for Friday.

## Chimp attack victim requests state lawsuit

The Associated Press

HARTFORD, Conn. — The woman mauled by a friend's chimpanzee in 2009 is expected to make a personal plea to Connecticut legislators, hoping they'll allow her to sue the state for \$150 million in damages.

A spokeswoman says Charla Nash will appear Friday at a public hearing before the General Assembly's Judiciary Committee.

The panel is considering a bill that would override the June decision by the State Claims Com-

missioner, who dismissed Nash's initial request for permission to sue.

The state generally is immune from lawsuits unless allowed by the claims commissioner.

Nash was blinded, lost both hands and underwent a face transplant following the attack. Her attorneys contend a state law gave the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection "unequivocal authority" to seize the chimpanzee, "whose existence threatened public health and safety."



JESSICA MILLER/AP

**Charla Nash sits before a hearing at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford, Conn., to determine whether she may sue the state for \$150 million in claimed damages.**

## Life term sought for killer bride

The Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. — Federal prosecutors recommended a life sentence for a Montana newlywed who pleaded guilty to murder after saying she pushed her new husband off a cliff in Glacier National Park. Her attorney, however, said the "extremely reckless but unintentional act" merits 10 years in prison.

A sentencing hearing for Jordan Graham, 22, is set for March 27 before U.S. District Judge Donald Molloy in Missoula. Graham entered her plea in December to second-degree murder in the July death of Cody Johnson, 25, her husband of eight days.

Johnson's body was found at the bottom of the cliff three days after he was reported missing by a friend and co-worker. Graham said at her trial that she was having second thoughts about being married so young and they went to the park to talk about it.

They argued heatedly at the edge of a steep cliff. Johnson grabbed her, she became angry and she "just pushed" without thinking about where they were, Graham said then. She didn't tell anybody what had happened, instead making up a story that Johnson had gone for a "joyride" with friends from Washington state.

In court filings Tuesday, Assistant U.S. Attorney Zeno Baucus asked Molloy to impose a life sentence or else no less than 50 years in prison.

## Study finds sparks from golf clubs ignite fires

By CHRISTOPHER WEBER  
The Associated Press

IRVINE, Calif. — Golfers are urged to swing with care after scientists at the University of California-Irvine proved that titanium-coated clubs can cause course-side vegetation to burst into flames.

Orange County Fire Authority Capt. Steve Concialdi said Wednesday that the results confirm a suspicion investigators have had for years: that titanium alloy clubs were the cause of at least two blazes on area golf courses, including one that burned 25 acres at Irvine's Shady Canyon in 2010.

A second fire, sparked at

**If hit upon a rock, clubs containing titanium can produce sparks of up to 3,000 degrees F that will burn for more than a second.**

Arroyo Trabuco Golf Club in Mission Viejo, burned close to homes.

"The common denominator was each golfer used a titanium club and hit the ball just out of bounds next to dry vegetation where the ground was extremely rocky," he said.

Investigators who were "laughed at" when they first floated the golf club theory have been vindicated, according to Concialdi.

Scientists painstakingly re-

created in the lab course the conditions on the days of the fires. Using high-speed cameras and electron microscopes, they found that if hit upon a rock, clubs containing titanium can produce sparks of up to 3,000 degrees F that will burn for more than a second, said James Earthman, a chemical engineering and materials science professor and an author of the study.

"And that gives the spark plenty of time" to ignite nearby foli-

age, he said. "Titanium reacts violently with both oxygen and nitrogen in the air."

In contrast, when standard stainless steel clubs were used, there was no reaction.

Most golf clubs have steel heads, but many manufacturers also make ones with a titanium alloy component in the head. Such alloys are 40 percent lighter, which can make the club easier to swing, researchers said.

Concialdi said the fire authority is giving golfers using titanium clubs permission to break the rules and "improve their lie" — that is, to move their ball away from rocks and dry vegetation.

"If they need to take a penalty, take a penalty," he said.



## UKRAINE UNREST

## Echoes of Crimea keep Ukraine's east rumbling

BY YURAS KARMANAU  
AND PETER LEONARD  
*The Associated Press*

ARTEMIVSK, Ukraine — The disheveled men barricading the muddy lane leading into a military facility in this eastern Ukraine town say they are making a stand to defend the region's Russian-speaking majority.

In the nearby city of Donetsk, gangs of pro-Russian activists and Cossacks armed with sticks and bats have been storming one local government office after another, only to leave a short while later.

It looks a lot like Crimea. But despite feeling or speaking Russian, many in these eastern regions still adhere strongly to their Ukrainian identity, so things could play out far differently.

"Russia has been unable to achieve the rapid breakaway of eastern Ukraine and we are focused on a long-term scenario," said Andrei Purgin, whose banned Donetsk Republic separatist group has been engaged in the seizure of public administration buildings.

Rumblings in the east began soon after last month's ouster of President Viktor Yanukovich, whose political strongholds lay mainly in the nation's Russian-speaking Donbass industrial heartland.

The protests that brought about his downfall and paralyzed the capital, Kiev, were perceived by many here as ardent Ukrainian nationalism.

In truth, the monthslong protests on Kiev's Independence Square were focused on a desire to fight corruption and to strengthen ties with Europe. But when the new parliament that took center stage after Yanukovich's overthrow moved to drop Russian as an official language, easterners' worst suspicions and fears seemed to have been realized.

Although the new government quickly backed off that proposal, the damage had been done.

Police in a dozen cities across the Donbass—including Donetsk,

Kharkiv and Lugansk — have struggled to thwart pro-Russian rabbles from seizing local government buildings in protest.

At the military facility in Artemivsk, several dozen pro-Russian activists, many of them wearing black leather jackets, intermittently formed a human cordon Thursday to stop vehicles from entering or exiting. They argue that blockading the facility would prevent the use of armed forces to quell popular discontent against the interim government.

"Power in Kiev has been seized by a junta that wants to speak to defiant people in eastern Ukraine with weapons and force. We will not allow this," declared Sergei Varyuschenko, 63, a businessman taking part in the endeavor.

Not unlike the encampment erected by protesters in Kiev's main square, also known as the Maidan, pro-Russia activists in Artemivsk have pitched tents, installed an open-air field kitchen and burn wood in steel drums to warm themselves.

"We'll show them Maidan. The east of Ukraine will live separately, by its own laws," said Varyuschenko, who was spending his third day camping out.

Around Donetsk, a city of nearly 1 million people, pro-Russian activists have set up 10 checkpoints to inspect vehicles for suspicious content. They say they are trying to keep what they call radical nationalists from western Ukraine from bringing in weapons to make trouble.

For all this activity, allies of the Kiev government in the east are confident they can avert the kind of widespread unrest that might prompt Moscow to send in troops to restore order and protect its Russian-speaking brethren.

Metals billionaire Sergei Taruta, who was recently appointed governor of the Donetsk province, an area where he has vast business interests, is fighting hard to reassert the new Ukrainian leadership's authority over the east.



SENEDI GRIFF/AP

Pro Russian activists block a road Thursday with cars near an Ukrainian army armory to prevent the export of arms and ammunition in the village of Praskoveyevka, eastern Ukraine



VADIM GHIRBA/AP

A Ukrainian airman carries a TV set Friday as he leaves the Belbek air base outside Sevastopol, Crimea.

## Russia annexes Crimea as Ukraine, EU sign deal

BY VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV  
*The Associated Press*

MOSCOW — President Vladimir Putin completed his annexation of Crimea on Friday, signing a law making the Black Sea peninsula part of Russia just as Ukraine, itself, sealed a deal pulling it closer into Europe's orbit.

Putin said he saw no need to further retaliate against U.S. sanctions, a newly conciliatory tone that apparently aimed to contain one of the worst crises in Russia's relations with the West since the Cold War. However, the Russian Foreign Ministry said a few hours later that Moscow will "harshly" respond to the latest round of U.S. sanctions — the conflicting signals apparently intended to persuade the West to end the spat over Ukraine.

At Ukrainian bases on the peninsula, troops hesitated, besieged by Russian forces and awaiting orders. Russia claimed some had already switched sides and agreed to join the Russian military. Friday had been the deadline for Ukrainian troops to leave Crimea, to join the Russian military or to demobilize.

Russia rushed the annexation of the strategic peninsula after residents there voted in a hastily called referendum Sunday to leave Ukraine and to join Russia. Ukraine and the West have rejected the vote, saying it was held at gunpoint because Russian troops had seized control of Crimea two weeks earlier. The U.S. and the EU have responded to the crisis by slapping sanctions

on Russia.

Putin hailed the incorporation of Crimea into Russia as a "remarkable event" before he signed the parliament bills into law Friday in the Kremlin. He also ordered fireworks in Moscow and Crimea.

At nearly the same time in a ceremony in Brussels, Ukraine's new prime minister pulled his nation closer to Europe by signing a political association agreement with the European Union. It was the same deal that touched off Ukraine's political crisis, the deal that President Viktor Yanukovich rejected in November, igniting the months of protests that drove him from office and sent him fleeing to Russia.

"Russia decided to actually impose a new post-Cold War order and revise the results of the Second World War," Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk said in Brussels. "The best way to contain Russia is to impose real economic leverage over them."

President Barack Obama on Thursday ordered a second round of sanctions against nearly two dozen members of Putin's inner circle and a major bank supporting them.

Moscow retaliated by banning nine U.S. officials and lawmakers from entering Russia, but Putin indicated that Russia would likely refrain from curtailing cooperation in areas such as Afghanistan. Moscow appears to hope to limit the damage.

But the latest U.S. sanctions, which targeted Putin's chief of staff along with other senior Kremlin aides and four business-

men considered to be his lifelong friends, dealt a painful blow to Russia. Obama also warned that more sweeping penalties against Russia's economy, including its robust energy sector, could follow.

International rating agencies downgraded Russia's outlook and Russian stocks tumbled Friday.

"The economic impact of the sanctions is already visible — on the stock exchange, on the value of the Ruble, the investment climate," EU President Herman Van Rompuy told VRT network.

The EU on Friday added 12 more people to bring its list of those facing visa ban and asset freeze sanctions to 33. According to a document obtained on Friday by the Associated Press, the list included some of Russian officials and lawmakers targeted by the first round of U.S. sanctions Monday.

Beyond the targeting of officials linked to the annexation of the Crimea Peninsula, the EU leaders also decided at their summit to prepare economic sanction in case the situation in eastern Ukraine would deteriorate further.

Putin tried to play down the sanctions' toll on Russia at Friday's televised session of the Presidential Security Council.

"We should keep our distance from those people who compromise us," he said, a jocular reference to the officials on the sanctions list, some of whom attended the meeting.

## WORLD

# Australia: No sign of Malaysian airplane

By ROB GRIFFITH  
AND KRISTEN GELINEAU  
The Associated Press

PERTH, Australia — Search planes scoured a remote patch of the Indian Ocean but came back empty-handed Friday after a 10-hour mission looking for any sign of the missing Malaysia Airlines jet, another disappointing day in one of the world's biggest aviation mysteries.

Australian officials pledged to continue the search for two large objects spotted by a satellite earlier this week, which had raised hopes that the two-week hunt for the Boeing 777 that disappeared March 8 with 239 people on board was nearing a breakthrough.

But Australia's acting Prime Minister Warren Truss tamped down expectations. "Something that was floating on the sea that long ago may no longer be floating — it may have slipped to the bottom," he said. "It's also certain that any debris or other material would have moved a significant distance over that time, potentially hundreds of kilometers."

In Kuala Lumpur, where the plane took off for Beijing, Malaysia's defense minister thanked more than two dozen countries involved in the search that is stretching from Kazakhstan in Central Asia to the southern Indian Ocean, and said the focus remains on finding the airplane.

"This is going to be a long haul," Hishammuddin Hussein told a news conference.

The search area indicated by the satellite images — some 1,550 miles southwest of Perth — is so remote it takes aircraft four hours to fly there and four hours back, leaving them with only enough fuel to search for about two hours.

On Friday, five planes, including three P-3 Orions, made the trip. While search conditions had improved from Thursday, with much better visibility, the Australian Maritime Safety Authority said there were no sightings of plane debris.

Searchers relied mostly on trained spotter aboard the planes scanning the ocean rather than radar because the use of radar found nothing during the first day of the search on Thursday, Australian officials said.

Going forward, the search will focus more on visual sightings because civilian aircraft are being brought in to participate. The military planes will continue to use both radar and visual.

"Noting that we got no radar detections yesterday, we have planned the search to be visual — so aircraft flying relatively low, very highly skilled and trained observers looking out of the aircraft windows and looking to see objects," said John Young, minister of the maritime safety authority's emergency response division.

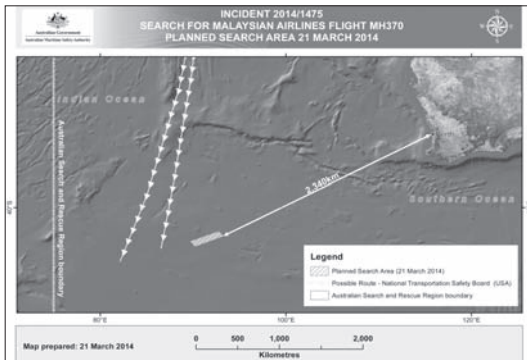
Two Chinese aircraft are expected to arrive in Perth on Saturday to join the search, and two Japanese aircraft will be arriving Sunday, Truss said. A small flotilla of ships coming to Australia from China was still several days away.

"We are doing all that we can, devoting



ALEXANDER F. YUAN/AP

One of the relatives of Chinese passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 wipes her tears as she watches a TV broadcast of a briefing by Malaysian officials in a hotel ballroom in Beijing on Friday.



COURTESY OF THE AUSTRALIAN MARITIME SAFETY AUTHORITY/AP

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is concentrating its search for the plane in the southern Indian Ocean.

all the resources we can, and we will not give up until all of the options have been exhausted," said Truss, who is acting prime minister while Tony Abbott is in Papua New Guinea.

Experts say it is impossible to tell if the grainy satellite images of the two objects — one almost 80 feet long and the other measuring 15 feet — showed debris from the plane. But officials have called this the best lead so far in the search that began after the plane vanished over the Gulf of Thailand on an overnight flight.

For relatives of the people aboard the plane — 154 of the 227 passengers are Chinese — hope was slipping away, said

Nan Jinyan, sister-in-law of passenger Yan Ling.

"I'm psychologically prepared for the worst, and I know the chances of them coming back alive are extremely small," said Nan, one of dozens of relatives gathered at a Beijing hotel awaiting any word about their loved ones.

Abbott spoke with Chinese President Xi Jinping, whom he described as "devastated."

"It's about the most inaccessible spot that you could imagine on the face of the Earth, but if there is anything down there, we will find it. We owe it to the families of those people to do no less," Abbott said.

# Hunt for jet tests limits of satellites

By JOEL ACHENBACH  
AND SCOTT HIGHAM  
The Washington Post

The disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has exposed the technological limits of satellites, which can see a license plate from space — if not necessarily read it — but struggle to find a missing jetliner.

These limits are shaped by physics, money and practicality. Military and commercial satellites are not closely observing and amassing data about the blank places on the map in lightly traveled seas — such as remote areas of the Indian Ocean thousands of miles from where Flight MH370 vanished from radar.

There's also a trade-off when scrutinizing the surface from space: You can go wide or you can go deep, but you can't do both. The most sophisticated spy satellites are essentially looking down straws, trying to resolve small details in a narrow field of view.

**‘Imagine driving down the street at 70 miles an hour with a pair of binoculars and trying to look at every single mailbox.’**

Brian Weeden  
Secure World  
Foundation

"Imagine driving down the street at 70 miles an hour with a pair of binoculars and trying to look at every single mailbox," said Brian Weeden, technical adviser to the Secure World Foundation, a nonprofit organization devoted to space policy. "You can't slew your binoculars around fast enough." The satellites may yet prove triumphant in past baffling cases. There is tantalizing imagery of possible debris from the missing plane that has been made public by Australian officials. They were taken by WorldView-2, a high-resolution commercial satellite circling the planet at an altitude of 470 miles.

It's unclear what's in the images. The primary object, if it is an object and not some trick of light, was seen Sunday — eight days after Flight MH370 disappeared — in the southern Indian Ocean about 1,500 miles west of Perth, Australia.

Nothing has been spotted by aircraft or satellites in that location in the days since, officials have said. If the mystery object is part of the plane, it means the Boeing 777 flew from the equator almost halfway to the South Pole.

There are satellites in geostationary orbits that can see huge swaths of the planet, but they're 22,000 miles above the surface and lack the resolution of the satellites in low Earth orbit.

"Satellites can see the whole world but can't see anything much smaller than a hurricane," said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics who also runs a website tracking all the satellites currently in orbit.

"Whether the search is that no one is sure what, exactly, to look for. 'We don't know the size and shape of the object we're looking for, and there's lots of stuff in the ocean,' Weeden said. "There's debris from shipping — containers and other stuff blown overboard. There's natural stuff like trees and everything else."

And there's a lot of ocean out there.

## WORLD

## Michelle Obama meets Chinese president, wife

By DIDI TANG  
The Associated Press

BEIJING — U.S. first lady Michelle Obama met with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday, the first day of her weeklong China visit, in a sign that the leaders of the world's two largest economies are seeking to build stronger bonds.

The formal meeting between Xi and Michelle Obama, in the company of Xi's wife Peng Liyuan and the first lady's daughters and mother, took place in a state guesthouse after Michelle Obama toured a Beijing high school and the former Imperial Palace with her host Peng.

"I cherish my sound working relationship and personal friendship I already established with your husband," Xi said. "We have had in close touch between phone conversations and correspondence."

Michelle Obama thanked Xi for the warm reception for herself and her family. "We have had a wonderful first day here in China," she told Xi.

The meeting was not on the first lady's official itinerary but was expected. "It is only logical for President Xi to meet her, because it is a matter of etiquette for the head of the household to meet the guest of his wife," said Teng Jianqun, director of the American studies department at China Institute of International Studies. He added that Michelle Obama likely



ANDY WONG/AP

**First lady Michelle Obama with her daughters Malia, right, and Sasha, second from right, is greeted by Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan, left, in Beijing on Friday.**

served as a messenger on behalf of President Barack Obama.

Her China visit has been seen as a prelude to an upcoming meeting between Xi and Obama at a nuclear security summit in The Hague, when more thorny issues would be raised.

"She also made history as the first U.S. first lady to visit China independently," Teng said.

Aides for Michelle Obama have said the first

lady is staying away from contentious issues but promote education and people-to-people exchanges during the seven-day, three-city visit.

Earlier in the day, Michelle Obama excited students who were building robots and tried her hand at Chinese calligraphy at the Second High School Attached to Beijing Normal University in central Beijing.

## 25 killed in wave of Iraq violence

By SAMEER N. YACUB  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A series of attacks north and west of Baghdad on Friday, including two suicide bombings, killed at least 25 people and wounded dozens, Iraqi officials said.

In the first of the attacks, a suicide bomber rammed his explosives-laden truck into a police brigade headquarters in the village of Injan, about 75 miles north of Baghdad, police officials said.

The explosion set off a fire-fight between other attackers and policemen. After it was over, nine police officers — including brigade commander Brig. Ragheb al-Omari and his assistant — were dead, the officials said.

Hours later, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive belt among mourners attending a funeral for Nasir al-Alawani, a leader in the anti-al-Qaida Sunni militia known also as Salwa, who was killed a day earlier.

Police said nine mourners were killed and 25 were wounded in the attack in the city of Ramadi, 70 miles west of the Iraqi capital.

The Sahwa militia became prominent when its members joined U.S. troops in the fight against al-Qaida at the height of Iraq's bloodletting. Since then, it has been a target for Sunni insurgents who consider them traitors.

In other violence, police said gunmen sprayed an army checkpoint near the city of Samarra, north of Baghdad, killing four soldiers. They also abducted nine soldiers before leaving the area, police said.

And back-to-back car bombings killed three people and wounded 14 in Dibi, a town located near Kirkuk, 180 miles north of Baghdad.

Medic officials confirmed the casualties from Friday's attacks. All officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to the media.

No one has claimed responsibility for the latest attacks, but they bear the hallmarks of an al-Qaida breakaway group that frequently attack members of security forces in an attempt to undermine the Shiite-led government's efforts to maintain security across the country.

Violence has spiked in Iraq since last April, a surge unseen since 2008. The relentless attacks have become the government's most serious challenge.

## Israelis find huge 'terror tunnel' on Gaza Strip

By IAN DEITCH  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military announced Friday it has uncovered another tunnel — the biggest so far — dug from the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, stretching into Israel and intended for militant attacks or abducting soldiers and civilians.

According to military spokesman Lt. Col. Peter Lerner, the opening of the "terror tunnel" was hundreds of yards inside Israel.

It was the biggest such tunnel found to date, Lerner said. He did not elaborate further. He said not all of the tunnel had been uncovered so far and that there are concerns it could be booby-trapped.

The tunnel was found this week by Israeli intelligence and the military, Lerner said, saying the structure was lined with concrete and describing it as very sophisticated, resembling a subway tunnel.

The advanced tunnel was intended to pose a direct link and threat to Israeli territory, and enable Hamas terrorists to reach and harm Israeli civilians," Lerner said.



ISRAELI DEFENSE FORCES/AP

**A photo released by the Israel Defense Forces claims to show a tunnel that stretches hundreds of yards inside Israel from the Gaza Strip.**

In 2013, Israel announced finding three such tunnels, including one that was more than a mile long and 18 yards deep.

Hamas, the Islamic militant group that has ruled Gaza since 2007, has dug tunnels into Israel in the past. In 2006, a year before seizing power, Hamas-allied militants sneaked into Israel through a tunnel, killed two Israeli soldiers and kidnapped a third, holding him hostage in Gaza for five years.

Hamas spokesman Abu Obeida said he blamed the tunnel's discovery on recent rains that exposed its opening, insisting the tunnel itself was old.

"Our mujahedeen (holy warriors) worked to fix it," he said, offering a possible explanation of the fresh tracks. "The enemy's allegations about intelligence ef-

forts behind the discovery are a big lie."

Israel has for years banned cement from entering Gaza, arguing it could be used by militants. But since 2010, it has allowed some construction materials in for internationally funded construction projects.

Israel and Hamas are bitter enemies. Palestinians have been deeply divided since Hamas overran Gaza in 2007, ousting forces from the Fatah party, led by the Western-backed secular Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, in bloody street battles.

Abbas has since ruled only in parts of the West Bank, and the Islamic Hamas has held sway in Gaza. Israel is engaged in peace talks with Abbas while shunning Hamas.

## UN: Syrians, Russians, Afghans top asylum list

The Associated Press

GENEVA — Most asylum seekers turned to Europe last year as Syria, Russia and Afghanistan topped the list of places where people fled their homelands to ask for protection from another country, the United Nations refugee agency said Friday.

The agency's report found that Europe totaled 484,600 asylum claims last year, 32 percent higher than in 2012. The report, which analyzes trends in 44 industrialized countries, says 612,700 people applied for asylum in North America, Europe, East Asia and the Pacific in 2013 — the highest total for any year since 2001 mainly due to Syria's civil war.

"If you look at it in a broader perspective, it's the second-highest annual level over the past 20 years," said Volker Turk, the agency's director of international protection.

Syria's 3-year-old civil war generated 56,351 asylum seekers in 2013, more than double the previous year's total of 25,232, according to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Syria became the world's biggest source for asylum seekers, surpassing Afghanistan, which fell to third.

Russia, meanwhile, became the second-biggest source of asylum seekers with 39,779, up from 22,650 in 2012.



## WORLD



LEFT: PITARAKIS/AP photos

British army officers walk along a WWI-era practice trench in Gosport, southern England. After the 1918 Allied victory, the site was forgotten until recently rediscovered by a local official with an interest in military history. Below, Graham Burgess of the local council holds a 1951 aerial photograph of the site.

# Great War rediscovered

By JILL LAWLESS  
Associated Press

## Trenches reveal Britain's home front legacy

GOSPORT, England — Two lines of trenches face off across No Man's Land. A soldier marches, rifle in hand, along a ditch. These are instantly familiar images of World War I — but this is Britain, a century on and an English Channel away from the battlefields of the Western Front.

This overgrown and oddly corrugated patch of heathland on England's south coast was once a practice battlefield, complete with trenches, weapons and barbed wire. Thousands of troops trained here to take on the German army. After the 1918 victory — which cost 1 million Britons their lives — the site was forgotten, until it was recently rediscovered by a local official with an interest in military history.

Now the trenches are being used to reveal how the Great War transformed Britain — physically as well as socially. As living memories of the conflict fade, historians hope these physical traces can help preserve the story of the war for future generations.

"We've now lost our First World War veterans. You're not going to get a firsthand account," said Richard Osgood, an archaeologist with the Ministry of Defense, which owns the land. "In many ways, the truest witness is the archaeology and the legacy left behind."

The trenches, near the town of Gosport, about 80 miles (130 kilometers) south of London, were rediscovered a few months ago by Robert Harper, head of conservation at the local council. A



military history buff, he noticed some crenellated lines on a 1950s aerial photograph of the area, and was startled to recognize the pattern of "the classic British trench system."

He was even more surprised when he had a look at the land — a local picnic spot — and found the contours of the trenches still clearly visible under a thick covering of bracken, gorse and grass. He could make out a front-line

trench and several reserve rows, along with communications trenches and forward observation posts. And then there was an opposing set, 300 yards (meters) away.

"It was one of those jaw-dropping moments," Harper said.

"I've got five relatives buried on the Western Front. I think to myself, 'Did any of them train here?'"

The discovery is already providing

ammunition for those who reject the "lions led by donkeys" view of the war, which argues that incompetent officers led ill-prepared troops into needless slaughter.

Historian Dan Snow said the elaborate mock battlefield "shows how seriously they took the business of training."

"They had to send the guys out to France to do the hardest of tasks, something no one had done before, and that is defeat the German army when they were dug in," Snow said. "How to break that deadlock? Well, the answer is right here in front of us. Massive, massive preparation."

The find is being used to launch a campaign, Home Front Legacy, which aims to record as many physical traces of the war as possible. Even though the four-year conflict was largely fought outside Britain, the war transformed the country's landscape in ways that have often been forgotten.

It's hoped amateur historians will comb family archives, local newspapers and other sources for evidence of everything from military bases and prisoner-of-war camps to munitions factories, pillboxes and listening posts.

"We're going to crowd-source this project," Snow said. "We're going to build a picture across the U.K. of the physical remnants of the First World War."

The project has the support of the defense ministry, which turns out to be keen on archaeology — perhaps unsurprisingly, since it owns 1 percent of Britain — and enlists volunteer soldiers to help with exploration on its lands.

## NATION

# Building boom

## New toys give children many choices beyond Legos

By Kim Cook  
The Associated Press

**B**uilding and construction toys have been a fixture in playrooms since, well, forever, and there are several reasons for their enduring appeal.

"Directions aren't necessary, no rules or instructions are needed. Children are just provided space to grow," says Judith Ellis, founder and chairwoman of the Toy Design department at New York's Fashion Institute of Technology.

"Construction toys empower children. They offer a child a chance to be adventurous — to ask, 'what if,' to think abstractly, developing creative intelligence. Building develops strategic thinking. It provides visionary perspective and it increases attention spans," Ellis says.

While Lego and Mega Blox are category stalwarts — Lego celebrates its 82nd birthday this year and has a hit movie in theaters — there are other interesting options to consider.

At the recent Toy Fair 2014 in New York, the building category was robust, according to Adrienne Apell, trends specialist for the Toy Industry Association. "It's been very hot, and that's going to continue," she says. "We love this trend because it speaks to the fact that classic play patterns appeal to kids, generation after generation."

Parents enjoy building stuff too, and bring their own childhood memories to the play table.

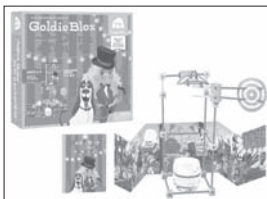
Magna-Tiles are colorful geometric tiles with embedded magnets along the edges. There are also translucent tile sets to make see-through creations, including "stained glass" windows. The plastic is Pthalate- and Latex-free. (www.magnatiles.com)

Tegu blocks are also magnetized



LITTLEBITS/AP

**LittleBits kits consist of tiny circuit-boards with specific functions engineered to snap together with magnets, that have no need for soldering, wiring or programming.**



GOLDIEBLOX/AP

**GoldieBlox kits are aimed at young girls, teaching early engineering concepts. In this kit, GoldieBlox and the Dunk Tank, Goldie, her dog Nacho and her friends encounter situations they must solve by building simple machines.**

but are crafted of wood, harvested by cooperatives in Honduras certified by the Forest Stewardship Council. The smooth-sided

blocks, rectangles and triangles come in soft, natural colors in both starter-set sizes (with a felt travel pouch) and larger sets of 40 to 480 pieces. There's a car-building set, too. (www.tegu.com)

Toddler builders might like to start with Edushape's sturdy foam blocks and shapes. After mastering simple tangrams, stacked castles and rudimentary fitted bits, kids can graduate to Kiddy Connects — a collection of snap-and-lock plastic pieces that include elbows and other unusual shapes. (www.edushape.com)

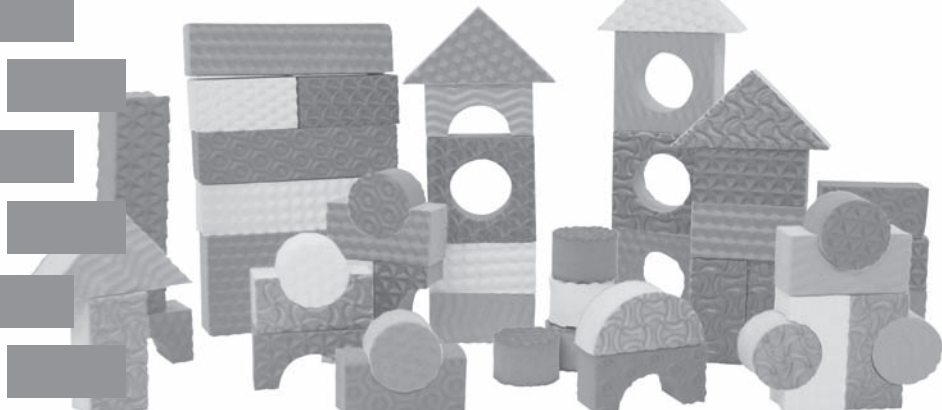
Knex has kits to make simple machines like windmills, sail carts, water mills, elevators and levers, allowing kids to tinker at home with concepts they may have been exposed to in the classroom. (www.knex.com)

And targeting science-oriented young girls, Goldie Blox kits offer the chance to build things like dunk tanks, spinning machines and belt drive machines. Developed by Stanford engineering graduate Debbie Sterling, the kits feature intrepid young inventor Goldie, her friends and her dog Nacho tackling various obstacles using innovation and savvy. (www.goldieblox.com)

Finally, for the kids who are always taking apart broken appliances or rewiring the stereo, consider littleBits. It offers what you need to make all kinds of electronic circuits, but without worrying about wiring, programming or soldering. The magnet-embedded modules snap together, and you can add buzzers, lights or other components to create more elaborate contraptions. An online library offers free plans, and you can share your creations there as well. (www.littlebits.cc)

**Edushape's Textured Toy Blocks are washable, textured foam blocks that come in a variety of sizes and colors so young children can practice a range of early building and designing skills.**

WAYFAIR.COM/AP



**National temperature extremes**  
Hi: Thu., 88, West Kendall, Fla.  
Lo: Thu., 0, Flag Island, Minn.



## LIFESTYLE

# FELLOWS LOVE FIBERS

Knitting as a hobby growing among men

By NICOLE BRODEUR  
The Seattle Times

**K**nitting is supposed to be a calm and peaceful pastime. Unless you're a man.

Every time Chuck Wilmesher pulls out his needles, someone notices, stares for a moment and asks, in so many words: What do you think you're doing?

"It drives me crazy when people act like they've never seen a man knitting before," said Wilmesher, 44, who lives in Kent, Wash. "I know so many guys who knit. There was a male knitting retreat and there were 48 guys there!"

For hundreds of years, Wilmesher said, fishermen knitted their own sweaters and hats until manufacturing made it less a necessity than a hobby.

That hobby — and the DIY culture — continues to grow. National Endowment for the Arts data shows that the number of needle arts participants went from 29.1 million to 31.5 million between 2008 and 2012.

A few thousand of them signed up to attend Vogue Knitting LIVE at Bellevue, Wash.'s Meydenbauer Center last weekend.

Sponsored by Vogue Knitting magazine, the event is to a knitter what Oz was to Dorothy Gale: an explosion of color and possibility and adventure.

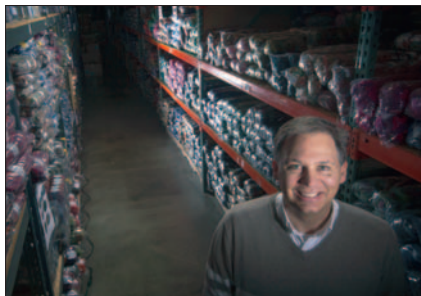
New this year was a panel discussion called "Men at Work," where male knitwear designers and store owners were to speak about toiling in a female-dominated field.

The panel included Rob Delmont, director of sales and marketing at Skacel Collection Inc., a yarn distributor based in Kent, Wash.

"I feel like a piece to the overall puzzle," Delmont said of men in the industry. "We all do our part to make this industry what it is."

Delmont's grandmother taught him how to knit, but he didn't take it up again until he started working at Skacel 16 years ago after a stint at Microsoft.

"Knitting speaks to everybody differently," he said. "I love fiber, I love the creativity."



ELLEN M. BANNER, THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

**Chuck Wilmesher, of Skacel Collection Inc., a yarn distributor based in Kent, Wash., enjoys knitting because "it's relaxing and creative."**

Wilmesher was living in St. Louis seven years ago when a male friend who was a knitter offered to teach him.

"I thought I wouldn't enjoy it," Wilmesher said, "and I fell in love with it."

At the time, he was working at a research company that con-

tracted with television production companies and networks, gauging viewers' responses.

In late 2010, he attended a knitting retreat where he met Karin Skacel, the CEO of the Skacel Collection.

Wilmesher had just lost his mother and was looking for a

**'Get over it and try it and who cares what anybody thinks. I wish there was some way to make men know that it [knitting] is not a woman's sport.'**

**Chuck Wilmesher**  
Skacel Collection Inc.

change. He asked Skacel if she had any sales openings. She didn't, but after learning about his background, Skacel made Wilmesher the company's director of new product research and development.

"It's tricky when your hobby becomes your job," he said. "But it's my life."

He's not kidding: Seven years

after his first cast-on, Wilmesher owns a loom and a spinning wheel, and has had a pattern for a men's curved-zipper cardigan published in Vogue Knitting magazine — a major honor.

He's working on a dog sweater (even though he doesn't own a pet), a pair of socks, and a cardigan — all to try out a pattern or a new yarn — and carries it all in a knitting bag.

Wilmesher attends two men's knitting retreats a year (he estimates there are four or five around the country) and belongs to Ravelry, the Facebook of knitting, including groups with titles like "Jock Swap," "Men Who Knit" and "Fellows Who Love the Fibers."

"I don't know what it is," he said of the hobby, "but it's relaxing and creative."

Indeed, there is mounting evidence that knitting and crocheting have therapeutic benefits.

The Mayo Clinic for the American Academy of Neurology credited knitting with a 40 percent reduced risk of memory loss.

A Harvard Medical School study found that the repetitive motions and focus of needlework elicit "a relaxation response and a calming, meditation-like state" that causes heart rate and blood pressure to drop.

"I think people should be more open to trying things because I would have never thought that this was going to be the thing that changed the course of my life," Wilmesher observed.

His message to men: "Get over it and try it and who cares what anybody thinks. I wish there was some way to make men know that it is not a woman's sport."

# HEALTH & FITNESS

Combine Twister, paint-by-numbers and the ancient Hindu practice of breath control, meditation and poses, and you get Yoga by Numbers.

The approach — complete with a numbered mat — was designed by a Boston woman whose own health scare inspired her to put yoga in reach for people with physical limitations, tight schedules or other roadblocks to traditional practice.

The oversized yoga mat is dotted with big, numbered circles that look like the crosshairs in a rifle scope. The accompanying DVD gives true yoga beginners a step-by-step road map to learn the poses at their own pace.

Elizabeth Morrow was an athlete, a skier and soccer player who, two years ago, found herself hospitalized with a right lung full of blood clots, the lower lobe completely collapsed. When she was strong enough to start exercising again, she found even the easiest of yoga classes too taxing. She didn't have the stamina for an hour, couldn't hold the poses the way the instructor wanted.

So, the 32-year-old started thinking of ways to make it easier, more convenient and even more fundamental than the myriad DVDs already on the market.

"I was thinking about a paint-by-number kit where you don't need to be Picasso or van Gogh, you just follow what they tell you and you'll come out with something," she said. "I just wanted something that felt really accessible and doable for people. The image of the mat just popped into my head. 'Wow, I can do yoga by numbers as well.'"

The DVD tells users exactly which circle to put their hands and feet in and allows for advancement to more challenging poses.

Yoga by Numbers has been compared to Twister, the popular game with giant colored circles, spinning wheel and crazy, cross-limbed poses. But Morrow's cool with that, even when it comes from critics.

"I think it's awesome when they have that reaction because to me, that means they get it and they know how to use it," said Morrow, a certified yoga instructor.

Morrow has sold to people who live far from a yoga studio, those with tight schedules who need to squeeze

in practice whenever they can, and people with health conditions. The National Institutes of Health's National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine reports that recent studies of people with chronic low-back pain suggest yoga can help reduce pain and improve function. Other research shows regu-

lar practice might reduce heart rate, blood pressure and stress and might help relieve anxiety and depression.

"People who are older are using it because the DVD really focuses you on not contorting yourself into Cirque du Soleil-style acrobatics," Morrow said. She demonstrated the mat recently at her parent's house in Bow, N.H.,

along the way, all the better.

"I think politicians sort of create this false dichotomy where you either have to be pro-business or pro-social corporation and that you can't do both," she said. "A lot of corporations want to put out the message that it's just not profitable, and that is just not true."

about an hour north of Boston. The latest "Yoga in America" study, released by Yoga Journal, reported that 20.4 million Americans practiced yoga in 2012, compared to 15.8 million in 2008. They spent \$10.3 billion on classes and products, up from \$5.7 billion in the earlier survey.

Janet Lark teaches yoga in Ogden, Iowa, and had a bad experience with a poorly cut, as-tiring-smelling mat, so she started doing some research. She came upon Morrow's mat and was struck by how simple it was for novices.

"It truly was a 'Duh! Why didn't anyone think of that sooner?' moment," she said. "It is fantastic to notice how quickly the clients start to focus on making sure they are properly aligned."

Morrow, who worked in the nonprofit sector for several years, also hears from purists who poo-poo the mats as a gimmick.

"My response is that this is not a mandate," she said. "I think that if you're already practicing yoga and it works for you, that's great and I'm really excited for you. I'm interested in hearing from people for whom the system doesn't work."

A spokeswoman for the nonprofit Yoga Alliance, which represents teachers, schools and studios, said the ideal situation is to learn from a master teacher in private classes, but time and cost can be barriers.

"Any tool that helps people practice yoga is a good thing," said Katie Desmond. "And so we applaud Elizabeth's ingenuity in spreading the power of yoga by helping to make the process of learning yoga as a beginner more accessible."

Morrow patented the idea and sells the mats, made in the U.S. from sustainable rubber, for \$119.95 including DVD and carry strap. She started selling on The Grommet, a website that launches undiscovered products, then had a successful, online crowd-sourced campaign to raise more start-up funds.

She also registered the business as a benefit corporation in Massachusetts, which means she can write into the bylaws that the company's social mission takes precedence over the bottom line for shareholders.

Up next: She wants to focus on reaching kids, especially those at risk, and hopes to partner with social services providers.

If she makes money

## Deciphering a dieter's temptations

By MARY MACVEAN  
Los Angeles Times

If there's no caramel cheesecake, you're not likely to eat any. But plop one down on a table among a group of friends, and the forks come out. That's a simple scene that embodies some of the complex mechanisms that make it so hard for people to lose weight and keep it off.

Researchers in England who were trying to sort out what tempts dieters and what makes them give into temptation looked at a group of 80 people, mostly women, over seven days, giving them phones and apps to record instances of temptation: how they felt, what was happening and whether they took a bite or a sip.

Over the week, they recorded 898 instances of temptation.

Some of the factors the researchers reported last week were no surprise: Being around friends, late-night cravings and alcohol, and shopping for food when tired all have a major effect on keeping weight off for good.

But while some of those might seem obvious, the researchers are looking at exactly what's going on in an effort to develop ways to empower people to resist temptation. Would it help, for example, if you had a phone app to record your feelings every time you happened upon a bowl of chips or an ad for ice cream?

"The findings help piece together the complex jigsaw surrounding the daily predictions of dietary temptations and help us to better understand how dietary temptations and lapses operate," the researchers wrote in the journal *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*.

The 80 participants were part of a weight-loss group or were dieting on their own. For one week, they were asked to fill out a phone diary each time they were tempted. The researchers said previous studies of willpower had been done in lab conditions; this one was done in "real" life.

The participants gave into temptation a little more than half the time, according to their diaries. They were particularly vulnerable at night and more likely to have an alcoholic drink than to eat a sugary snack.

British dietitians have ranked lack of willpower as more important to the development of obesity than genetics, the researchers said.

"In the fight against obesity, we need to help people become more aware of the various personal, situational and environmental factors that expose them to dietary temptations," the researchers wrote. And then, they said, they need to develop skills to cope.

One thing that appeared to help the dieters was an ability to focus on their long-term goals.

No surprise, they reported they were more aware of their eating because they were carrying around the phones.



## Yoga by Numbers

Specially designed mat helps beginners perfect poses

By RIK STEVENS | The Associated Press

Elizabeth Morrow of Boston designed a Yoga by Numbers mat that gives beginners step-by-step instructions to perform yoga poses.

PHOTOS BY JIM COLE/AP

## TRAVEL

# Offbeat holiday

## Visitors seeing more than the traditional vacation sites in Japan

The Yomiuri Shimbun

**F**orget Mount Fuji, Kyoto and other common sightseeing destinations. Many foreign tourists are heading for off-the-beaten-path spots where they can enjoy a real taste of daily life in Japan.

Showcasing food menu items made with wax for display in front of restaurants might be unique to Japan, which probably is why tourists want to try their hand at it.

Amy and her 12-year-old son Jordan attended a workshop at Ganso Shoku-hin Sanpuru-ya, a kitchenware store on Kappabashi Dogu-dori street, Tokyo. Amy, a 48-year-old visitor from Seattle, made samples of shrimp tempura.

"It looks real, and every piece is beautiful," she said as she admired her work.

According to the shop, elaborate and realistic-looking samples as well as sushi magnets are popular among foreign tourists.

"They seem to be fascinated with all the various colors used in Japanese food," an employee said.

Japanese farms are another popular destination. In December, 50 people from Thailand boarded a tour bus to visit Migita Persimmon Picking Garden in Kurume. It was something they never tried before.

A Thai visitor, 36, picked 20 fuyugaki persimmons at the farm. "I'm going to give them to my friends and family when I return home," he said. A single persimmon costs about 100 baht in Thailand, about 330 yen or \$3, about four times more than Chinese persimmons.

Though Thailand is a major exporter of fruits, such fruits as peaches, melons and strawberries grown in Japan are regarded as luxury items in Thailand due to their taste, shape and color, according to the Thai tourists, who added that the fruits are popular among the middle class.

Factories are also on the tourists' itinerary. At the end of last year, 33 students from other Asian countries and Africa visited Nippon Steel & Sumi-tomo Metal Corp.'s Yawata Steel Works in Kitakyushu. They were stunned by the organizational structure and atmosphere.

"I was impressed by the disciplined, devoted workers. This is Japan's strength," said a 38-year-old Sri Lankan.

"I was interested in the corporate history of combating environmental pollution," a 29-year-old Filipino said.

Overseas visitors looking for souvenirs often make a bee-line for Don Quijote stores in Tokyo, as the general discount giant's outlets are open until midnight and crammed with piles of miscellaneous goods.

"The stores are filled with interesting stuff, and the prices are cheap. I've never seen shops like this before," said a 39-year-old hotel manager from Thailand. He bought some bags of green tea at the flagship store in Ginza, Tokyo.

Don Quijote offers a wide range of products from watches and bags to detergent and snacks. The stores are like a theme park for foreigners to observe Japanese consumption habits.

According to the Japan Tourism Agency's survey of foreign tourists, more than 70 percent said experiencing the Japanese lifestyle was satisfying.



Tourists to Japan, clockwise from left, are shopping at Don Quijote, a general discount store crammed with miscellaneous goods; making wax food samples; and picking fresh fruit at the Migita Persimmon Picking Garden.

The Yomiuri Shimbun



## VIDEO GAMES

'Plants vs. Zombies'

## 'Garden Warfare' a bloomin' good shooter

By BRIAN BOWERS

Stars and Stripes

**M**illions of undead creepers have succumbed to the mighty peashooter and voracious chomper in "Plants vs. Zombies." But the action has always been small-scale and relatively static in the cellphone game.

But now, PopCap Games and Electronic Arts have taken that experience and expanded it into a console shooter called "Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare."

"Garden Warfare" is just the latest in a long line of casual titles that have migrated from cellphones to consoles. Several years ago, my wife was mesmerized by a TV-size

version of "Bejeweled" and my young niece thoroughly enjoyed waving her arms to slice pineapples in the Kinect version of "Fruit Ninja." And don't forget "Angry Birds," which is now available in a "Star Wars" version.

However, none of these games has taken its subject and transformed it into a full-fledged experience that even a hard-core gamer could enjoy.

The game is a third-person shooter that often feels a lot like EA's "Battlefield" franchise. For example, each side has four different classes of fighters with varying abilities; there's a game mode that's very similar to "Rush" and its underlying mechanics are based on the same Frostbite 3 technology that powers "Battlefield 4."

But there's enough "PvZ" in the genetic makeup to ensure the game isn't just "Battlefield with new skins on the characters.

Each plant or zombie starts out with the basic ability to shoot at opponents and one skill that's unique to its class. As you level up each character, you unlock additional abilities.

The plants have the feisty peashooter, which serves as the infantryman. He can run around the battlefield taking potshots at zombies or plant his roots and pull out a sort of veggie Gatling gun to mow them down. There's also the chomper, which can bite the heads off zombies or burrow underground to attack from below. There's also the cactus, which serves as a sharp-shooter and can launch an attack drone. And the sunflower can heal the wounded or plant its roots and fire a deadly beam of sunlight.

The zombies have the foot soldier, who comes with a jetpack and can fire a rocket. The mad scientist can create healing stations or throw a grenade. The engineer can lob a sonic grenade or launch an attack drone. And the all-star carries a rapid-fire football cannon and can slam into foes with his tackle ability.

Although each side offers different abilities, they are pretty evenly matched as long as everyone pays attention to what classes are being selected. A team where everyone's a sunflower or mad scientist will be incredibly healthy but also woefully lacking in firepower.

The battle modes are limited, but very good.

The combat that's most like the original cellphone game is called "Garden Ops." It features four players working together to protect a garden from a zombie horde. The onrushing undead are boosted by a wild assortment of bosses that aren't available in the other game modes. These include yetis and giants wielding telephone poles. However, the vegetable warriors can also plant their own re-enforcements in pots scattered around the defensive zone. These potted plants can act as defensive turrets or can dispense healing, depending on which type of vegetation you select.

If your team survives for 10 rounds, you have the opportunity to escape with your

benefactor, Crazy Dave.

If you have an Xbox One, you can play "Garden Ops" with a friend in split-screen. However, survival to the 10th round is a lot more difficult when there are only two players involved.

The other game modes are a version of team deathmatch called "Team Vanquish" and the "Rush" clone, which is called "Gardens and Graveyards."

"Team Vanquish" involves 12-on-12 combat that rages until one side has tallied 50 kills — or "vanquishes" in the family-friendly vocabulary of "Garden Warfare." If you revive a teammate within 15 seconds of his falling, it deducts a point from your opponent's score. In most cases, this provides ample encouragement to heal and revive teammates. However, if you listen to your headset, you'll quickly realize that some of the games are dominated by 8-year-olds. When you hear that, you can be certain that you'll never get revived if you go down.

In "Gardens and Graveyards," one team defends a string of bases while the other tries to overrun them. The attacking team gets several minutes to capture each base in sequence. If they fail to beat the clock in any of these attacks, the game ends in victory for the defenders.

In some of the matches, you can play in "Boss Mode" if you have an Xbox One. This allows you to connect to your console through a Kinect or tablet to get an overhead view of the battle. From that vantage point, you can help your teammates by gathering intelligence, dropping health or calling in artillery strikes. However, it's pretty rare to see anyone using this. Players seem to prefer to be on the ground where the action is.

At the end of a match, you are awarded "coins" based on your performance. You use these to buy packages of "stickers," which are filled with random items such as potted plants, to use in "Garden Ops," items for customizing your characters or upgrades for your weapons.

The more you play, the better the items you are likely to get. While you definitely hope you'll receive weapon

Overall grade: **A-**

upgrades, some of the customization options are very cool — or goofy. You can tell high-ranking players on the battlefield because they sport beards, hats, tattoos, face paint or other items that are definitely not standard-issue.

The game is rated E10, which means that practically everyone who can hold a controller will get parental permission to join the battle. However, the game still offers solid mechanics that will please hard-core gamers.

The game's graphics might be cartoonish, but they're pretty good. The bright color palette works well for the subject and the renderings and animations are sharp and detailed.

The controls are similar to those in "Battlefield" and are very smooth.

The battlegrounds are very well designed, with a good mix of cover, open space and high ground that will give each of the classes plenty of opportunities to use their abilities. There are also many points of access to each area, which prevents camping.

Another element that makes this game impressive is its price. It's available for \$40 for the Xbox One and \$30 for the Xbox 360 and PC.

All of this adds up to a great deal for entry-level gamers or those who have been intimidated by shooters like "Call of Duty" or "Battlefield." Shooter fans are likely to find a lot to like too, but will probably see "Garden Warfare" as a fun diversion for a few hours rather than the type of immersive experience they prefer. The limited number of game modes and the lack of realism and grittiness will be seen as drawbacks.

**Bottom line:** A- "Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare" looks like a kids' game but is actually a grown-up shooter down to its roots.

**Platforms:** Xbox One, Xbox 360, PC  
**Online:** pvzgardenwarfare.com



"Plants vs. Zombies: Garden Warfare" delivers an explosive new co-op and multiplayer action experience.

Electronic Arts

## MOVIES

# The need for fun

‘Breaking Bad’s’ Aaron Paul takes on lighter role in racing game-inspired film

By JENNA FRYER  
The Associated Press

**W**hen Aaron Paul received the script for “Need for Speed,” he had very little interest in even reading the story, let alone taking a starring role in the movie.

He saw the title and immediately envisioned another poorly done video game adaptation. Or worse, a car film desperately trying to become a franchise.

“When I saw ‘Need for Speed,’ I just instantly thought, ‘this is a ‘Fast & Furious’ rip-off. This is going to be God-awful,’” Paul said in an interview with The Associated Press. “Let’s be honest — everyone going into this movie is going to expect to see something similar to ‘Fast & Furious.’ That’s fine. The ‘Fast & Furious’ movies, they’ve made six of them, they are on the seventh, they are fun to watch, they are popcorn movies and I have nothing against them.

“But I didn’t want to jump into something like that.”

Paul ultimately decided to read the script, which is based on the popular EA Entertainment racing game, and found himself surprisingly intrigued by the story of a street racer framed for a crime he didn’t commit. He seeks his revenge while taking a cross-country trip in a custom-built Ford Mustang, which he hopes to enter in an underground and illegal street race called the De Leon.

Paul was hooked and signed on for the project in 2012, as he was preparing for his final season as Jesse Pinkman on “Breaking Bad.”

“I just had such a fun time reading this film, just flipping the pages,” he said. “It was just a fun ride and after doing a show for so long that I was so proud to be a part of, but it was also emotionally exhausting, just so heavy every single day. I wanted to do something that was a little bit lighter, and this was that.”

Paul got his wish in a campy film with cliché-filled dialogue and a predictable plot. But the movie also features several European super cars, and Paul got to do most of his own driving.

He trained at Willow Springs International Raceway, driving from Los Angeles before dawn for lessons that lasted up to 10 hours a day.

“From the moment the sun starts peeking up, I am there all day long, learning how to maneuver these cars,” Paul said. “It was learning how to get out of problematic situations, and then I go to learn how to do all the fun stuff, driving the car backward at really high speeds, flipping the car around in a reverse 180 and going through stunt courses. It was so much fun. I loved every minute of it. It never felt dangerous.”

Paul did many of his own stunts, but said professionals were brought in for “the real heavy lifting” and Paul was only in scenes where the driving didn’t exceed 130 mph. Director Scott Waugh insisted that all the action sequences and wrecks be done live and did not rely on the use of CGI or a green screen.

Both Paul and Waugh bill “Need for Speed” as an

homage to classic car flicks. They cite “Bullitt” and “Vanishing Point” and even “Smokey & The Bandit” as inspirations.

So Waugh went into the film trying to give it a “Steve McQueen style of filmmaking,” as in when a camera would pull up right next to a car in a McQueen film so the audience could see the actor in the driver’s seat. That was in his mind during casting when he first heard Paul’s name.

Waugh had never seen “Breaking Bad” and was unfamiliar with Paul, a two-time Emmy winner for his role as Pinkman. But Paul was suggested to Waugh to play the villain, so he took a look.

“I didn’t even know who was Aaron Paul was, and everyone thought I was an alien on Earth,” Waugh said.

“Then I saw the tape of him and was so blown away, he was the obvious choice for the bad guy. But the more interesting choice and the one that would define the movie was the lead, and having him at the lead was the edgier choice. He’s not just a beautiful person, he’s so much more of an actor than that.”

So much so that Waugh sees Paul as a present-day McQueen.

“Aaron has this uncanny ability of portraying edge, mixed with charisma, mixed with humble and likability, and Steve really had that,” Waugh said. “Steve was such a man’s man, and he was also a ladies’ man. I remember seeing Steve at motocross, his hair would be disheveled, mud all over him, and he didn’t care who was looking at him. It’s that egoless attitude that Steve had that Aaron really has in his natural life.”

ANDY KROPA, INVISION/AP

**Based on the largely successful racing video game franchise, “Need for Speed,” starring Aaron Paul, chronicles a near-impossible cross-country race against time — one that begins as a mission for revenge, but proves to be one of redemption.**



Today's Cryptquip Clue: H equals A





# Independent News for the U.S. Military Community

*Whenever They Fight  
and Wherever They Live*



The first Stars and Stripes was produced by Union soldiers during the Civil War. In 1861, using the facilities of a captured newspaper office in Bloomfield, Mo., they ran off a one-page paper.

Stars and Stripes was revived during World War I. Our first edition appeared in Paris on February 8, 1918. Produced weekly by an all-military staff, the paper served the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), under General of the Armies John J. Pershing.

The newspaper ceased printing at the war's end, only to enjoy a second renaissance. Starting on April 18, 1942, a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (two English pence or about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first edition of Stars and Stripes published during World War II featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who said that Stripes had been a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes also found a special champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States. Eisenhower enforced a

hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published as many as 32 separate editions, with page counts running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had up to 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

In the years that followed World War II, Stripes reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field. Throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Stars and Stripes published the news. The paper was there in the 1990s during Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Provide Comfort and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stripes reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

As the "hometown newspaper" for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific, Stars and Stripes offers the same types of national and world news, sports and opinion columns found in newspapers in the United States.

Stripes.com coverage ranges from breaking military news reported from bases around the world to local DODDS high school sports. The paper is also available online in PDF format.

Stars and Stripes is available for iPhone and Android smartphones and a Tablet Edition is available for the Apple iPad.

Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where the editions are transmitted to printing facilities in Spain, Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, South Korea, Guam, Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, and Djibouti.

Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (in Okinawa, Guam, Kanto Plain and Korea) designed to serve the needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world launched in 2008 to serve servicemembers who have returned from overseas tours. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



## RECOGNIZED FOR EXCELLENCE

**2013 National Headline Awards –**  
Second Place: News Series  
(Forever After: A Warrior Wounded;  
A Family Challenged)

**2013 min Best of Web: Redesign –**  
Honorable Mention  
Stripes UK website

**2011 Military Photographer of the Year –**  
Honorable Mention  
Recipient: Joshua DeMotts

**2011 Sigma Delta Chi Award –**  
Breaking News Photography (Newspaper  
Circulation 100,001+ or Affiliated  
Website/National Magazine)  
Recipient: Laura Rauch: "For those  
I love I will sacrifice"

**2011 John Reagan "Tex" McCrary  
Award for Excellence in Journalism –**  
Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

**2010 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –**  
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Jon Rabinoff

**2010 National Headliner Awards –**  
First Place: Public Service (Forcing Change) –  
Third Place: News Series  
(Coming Home: The Men of Triple Deuce)

**2009 George Polk Awards in Journalism –**  
George Polk Award for Military Reporting  
Recipients: Charlie Reed, Leo Shane III  
and Kevin Baron

**2009 min Editorial & Design Awards –**  
Editorial Print / Special Supplement: HEROES 2009;  
Custom Publication Design: Stripes GAMER

**2007 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –**  
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Monte Morin

**2006 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –**  
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipients: Monte Morin, Joe Giordano;  
Honorable mention: Nancy Montgomery  
Photography: Fred Zimmerman

**2006 NAA ACME Award of Excellence –**  
Youth Oriented Ad Series/Campaign:  
Stripes GAMER;  
Entertainment Promotions: Tales from the Crib

**2005 Military Reporters and Editors Awards –**  
Overseas coverage (< 100,000 circulation)  
Recipient: Steve Liever  
Photography: Terry Boyd

**2004 American Legion Excellence  
in Journalism Award –**  
Ground Truth Series

**2003 Scripps Howard Foundation  
National Journalism Award –**  
First Amendment, Finalist

**STARS AND STRIPES**

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Ernie Gates

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## OPINION

## Sanctions sound better than they are

By ANDREW COCKBURN

In 1919, after allied sanctions on food shipments had starved the Kaiser's Germany into submission, President Woodrow Wilson endorsed the continued use of sanctions to end international disputes as an "economic, peaceful, silent, deadly remedy." Almost a century later, the weapon is more popular than ever, mostly because of a wholly mistaken belief that it makes the targets do what we want. Currently, the United States is enforcing no fewer than 24 separate sanctions in regimes directed at targets ranging from the Balkans to Zimbabwe. Now, of course, with Vladimir Putin proving fractious, Washington has opened another financial offensive, this time against Russia.

Whereas once the U.S. embargoed entire countries, such as Cuba, it now has techniques for targeting individuals — economic Hellfire missiles. The initial salvo in the Ukraine situation — visa bans and asset freezes on some individuals deemed "cronies" of the Russian leader — appear modest in their effect. There is heavier armament, developed in recent years in the Treasury's R&D shop, waiting in the reserve. There are already threats to deploy the deadly "secondary sanctions" targeted at any individual or company providing financial aid to the Russian government. This was the approach that jailed people for sending aid to their families in Iraq when the U.S. was sanctioning Saddam Hussein.

For years after all those Germans starved, sanctions lacked a major victory. Fidel Castro's Cuba has remained aloof despite decades of embargo, as did Saddam's Iraq until we attacked with bombs and tanks. South Africa's apartheid economy was already crumbling before the West reluctantly imposed sanctions, which were reinforced by international outrage

## The problem with relying on false history is that it leads to bad decisions.

and revolution — a moral blockade as it were.

These days, however, sanctioners brandish what they consider a clear, unalloyed victory: the negotiations with Iran on that country's nuclear program. It is now taken as a matter of course in Washington, as New York Times correspondent David Sanger noted recently, that the U.S. Treasury, "Obama's favorite noncombatant command," had "refined the art of the economic squeeze on Iran, eventually forcing the mullahs to the negotiating table." Variations on this theme are repeated ad nauseam: Sanctions brought the Tehran regime to its knees, causing such pain that it eventually cried "uncle" and crawled to the table.

Unfortunately, this is not what happened. Sanctions did not bring Iran to the table. Not only Iranian officials but other unambiguously objective observers concur that the reason negotiations have commenced is emphatically not because Iran could endure the pain no longer.

"Total nonsense," scoffed former U.S. Ambassador William Miller when I put the question to him. Miller has closely followed Iran's nuclear sheeps since stationed in that country in the 1960s, and has close contacts with the current leadership. "Sanctions only made them more defiant," and they always had ways of getting around them. The deal that's being discussed now is almost exactly the same one the Iranians offered back in 2003, full transparency on their nuclear program, but recognition of Iran's right to enrich uranium.

Trita Parsi, president of the National Iranian American Council, whose family suffered repression until both the shah and ayatollahs and later fled Iran, was equally derisive when I called. "What no one seems to notice is that it was the U.S. that made the key concession that led to these talks. The Iranians have been demanding all along that their right to enrich be recognized," President George W. Bush refused that point-blank for eight years. [President Barack] Obama refused for four years, all the way through the first term. Now the U.S. has accepted enrichment on Iranian soil."

Indeed, The Joint Plan of Action agreed to last fall between Iran and the so-called P5+1 negotiating team — the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and Germany — stipulated that Iran would not continue to enrich uranium to levels above 5 percent, implicitly recognizing that Tehran can enrich uranium. All those years of threatening to shut it down, impeding even shipments of food and medicine, for this?

The problem with relying on false history is that it leads to bad decisions. Shooting wars end when there is a cease-fire and the guns stop. Sanctions have a way of ending, especially now that there is an entrenched enforcement bureaucracy at the Treasury Department with independent support on Capitol Hill. They also tend to become an end in themselves: Much of Obama's first-term diplomacy was focused on drumming up international support for the Iranian sanctions. Finally, they make us unpopular. The outside world has long considered the Cuba embargo silly, and European courts are increasingly ruling against sanctions targeting Iranian banks.

Let's not end up sanctioning ourselves.

Andrew Cockburn is the Washington editor of Harper's magazine. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

## Now that Phelps is dead, let hate die with him

By STEVEN PETROW

On Sunday night, the estranged son of the Rev. Fred Phelps posted on Facebook that his father, the founder of the Westboro Baptist Church, was near death. From then until his death was already announced Thursday, the elder Phelps became a trending topic on social media, with the discussion centered on this question: Might it be a cause for celebration?

Phelps rose to fame (or infamy) for his decades-long work of "opposing the homosexual lifestyle of soul-damning, nation-destroying pickets" accused to the church's website. He expressed that opposition by picketing the funerals of military servicemen and women who in his view had been killed in wartime by a vengeful God punishing the United States for its increasing acceptance of gay rights. Many a grieving family had to put a loved one to rest within view of Phelps and other holding signs saying, "Thank God for Dead Soldiers," "Thank God for 9/11" and his signature slogan, "God hates gays."

Phelps' church cast a wide net, claiming to know other groups that God hates — Catholics and Jews among them — and Westbury's pickets included the funerals of Elizabeth Edwards, Michael Jackson and even a former president of the Mormon Church.

Despite the cruel and unpopular pickets, in 2011 a challenge to Westboro Baptist's tactics made it to the Supreme Court, which ruled that the First Amendment protected Phelps' right to an outdoors protest of, in that particular case, a military funeral.

Westboro Baptist, in Topeka, Kan., first captured the public's eye in 1998 when church members picketed the funeral of college student Matthew Shepard, who was beaten to death allegedly because he was gay. Many Americans who had never heard of Phelps were shocked and repelled at the sight of a church group at a funeral holding signs that read, "Fags are nature freaks," "Matt in Hell" and, of course, "God hates gays."

Still, while Shepard's mother, Judy Shepard, was asked about Phelps a few years ago, she astonished many when she told LGBTQIT Nation's Brody Levesque: "Oh, we love Freddy. If it wasn't for him there would be no Matthew Shepard." If anything, I think she was saying was that Phelps helped make her son a national symbol of the fight against that hate.

I've also been on the receiving end of Phelps' ire. In 2001, I was vice president of the national Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association when Westboro Baptist protested outside our annual conference. The experience proved terrifying (What if there's violence?) and yet galvanizing (How could we not step up our mission of fostering fair and equal coverage for LGBT people?). More than a decade later, I am still haunted by the protesters' hate-filled slogans.

Not surprisingly, many in the LGBT community have felt their own inner hate rip as the news of Phelps' impending death circulated. On Facebook a gay man wrote, "The world will be a better and more loving place without this human garbage." Another suggested making any funeral for Phelps into a "ridiculous, frivolous spectacle" — even going so far as to suggest

carrying signs that read, "God hates Fred Phelps ... and he's about to find out how much."

Enough.

Yes, I understand what drives many to such extreme emotions (and I'd be lying if I didn't admit to a vein of it myself); after all, it's only human to want to fight back against hate.

Instead, what if those on the receiving end of Phelps' ideology did the opposite, which is to say, let him go quietly — and without protest — into that good night? Imagine the karma lesson that would be to all those who have supported Westboro Baptist.

Revenge against Phelps — or, frankly, any hateful or toxic person — doesn't really allow for healing. Joseph Burgo, a psychoanalyst and an author, told me this week: "For those of us who have felt hated and shamed by people like Phelps, the temptation is to turn tables and triumph over their demise. You might think of it as 'giving back' the hatred and shame that was inflicted upon us, but this reaction binds us to the other person as long as we continue to feel that way." He then added that we need to "break the hold of these destructive emotions and move on."

So, with Phelps' passing, I suggest we bombard Westboro Baptist with sympathy and prayers. Or, as a friend once told me, "Do your enemies really crazy. Love them." OK, maybe not love, but at least not hate. Never hate.

Steven Petrow is a former president of the National Lesbian & Gay Journalists Association and the author of five etiquette books. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

## OPINION

# NRA attacks Murthy with surgical precision

Baltimore Sun editorial

Earning more about the causes of injury and death and recommending policies that might lengthen people's lives have long been the mission of the public health community. Under those circumstances, it's hardly surprising that those in the field are concerned not only about viruses and infectious agents but also about firearm-related injuries and deaths.

For years, doctors have been looking at gun violence, the nature of the injuries it causes and the policies that might prevent it. This is strictly mainstream stuff. The American Medical Association has long expressed concerns in this area and dozens of the assault weapons ban, limiting gun magazines and improving access to mental health services. The AMA has more than 200,000 physician members, making it by far the largest medical society in the country.

Dr. R Vivek Hallegore Murthy appears to espouse those same views, and that's exactly what's gotten him in trouble. His nomination to become President Barack Obama's next surgeon general is now considered in serious jeopardy because he has not only suggested guns are a health issue but also declared on social media after the Newtown tragedy that he was tired of elected officials playing politics with guns because "they're scared of the NRA."

That's only shocking if one is still shocked that Obama was elected president of the United States. Most sensible people are tired of the political games, too. Public opinion surveys have repeatedly found that a majority of Americans believe in stricter restrictions on gun sales and other reasonable forms of gun control like background

checks and safety training.

Murthy, a Boston internist, isn't exactly a loose cannon on the issue either. In his February confirmation hearing, he testified under oath that he doesn't plan to use the bully pulpit of his office to favor gun control, preferring instead to focus on such issues as obesity, smoking and mental illness.

Nor can anyone claim he isn't qualified for the job. Murthy got into Harvard at age 16 and got his medical degree at Yale. A first-generation immigrant from Florida, he's an American success story having worked in private practice, medical research and health care advocacy. He founded an international organization promoting HIV/AIDS youth education while he was still a medical student.

That Murthy supported the Affordable Care Act and Obama's candidacy may irritate some Republicans, but surely both positions would be expected of any surgeon general nominee in this administration. Would anyone in the Senate seriously expect Obama to nominate an Obamacare foe or a Mitt Romney supporter for the job?

Clearly, it is opposition from the National Rifle Association that has created the uncertainty surrounding the nomination. The organization has promised that a vote for Murthy will be regarded negatively in "scoring" of U.S. Senate candidates. And that appears to have been enough to send some Red State Democratic senators running for cover. It is this gutless Democrats, and not Republican opposition, that has derailed the nominee.

That a well-qualified doctor holding mainstream views on gun control that are shared by the nation's largest physician group can be so pilloried by the NRA (and its willing accomplices on talk radio



and the conservative media) as to be disqualified from public service ought to be a concern to all Americans. And that Democrats, who not long ago changed the Senate filibuster rule to facilitate the confirmation process, appear powerless to do anything about it is truly outrageous.

Is the only solution to nominate someone who has never expressed any misgivings about unregulated gun ownership? If so, that person probably isn't much of a doctor. More than 100,000 people are shot, on average, every year in the U.S. That amounts to about 289 people each day, of which 86 are killed, according to the Brady Campaign

to Prevent Gun Violence. For any public health professional to ignore such carnage amounts to medical malpractice.

What a shame if Murthy ends up as another notch on the NRA's gun belt, particularly for a nation that desperately needs to address gun violence. Of course, it's what we've come to expect from an organization that opposes even using federal dollars to research gun violence, but it's disappointing that more fair-minded senators and others in Washington won't stand up to such bullying, particularly given the lives at stake.

# Push to help the vulnerable before they are homeless

By MOLLIE LOWERY

Lourdes was 69 years old when I first met her in 2012. She was living next to a bus stop on a busy four-lane street in front of a supermarket. Lourdes had claimed the spot three years earlier, after she was rousted from her encampment in Griffith Park in Los Angeles. Before that, she'd lived in her 1973 Toyota, but it was eventually impounded because of overdue parking tickets.

Lourdes was one of the folks we call "chronically homeless." She'd been surviving on the city's margins for 20 years after losing her low-cost housing because of gentrification. When she couldn't find another affordable place to live indoors, she found another way to survive, making do with disability benefits as she struggled on the streets with scoliosis, arthritis and hearing loss.

But just because she didn't have a lot doesn't mean she didn't cost a lot. She cost us taxpayers a heap of money, as she circulated in and out of psych wards and jails. Mind you, Lourdes never sought these services. Her crime was to live in public places, and this was our response.

Before I met her, Lourdes had been approached by several outreach teams of offering food, warm clothes and temporary shelter. But in exchange they asked her for a lot of personal information, which she was unwilling to share. Besides, she had one goal — to have a permanent home of her own. No one was offering that. But then one day I took her a housing subsidy voucher application with her name on it, and we had something to start with.

Lourdes began her journey home slow-



WAYNE PARRA/AP

**Tomas Torres sits at a table crowded with donated food at his encampment of homeless people in the woods of Toms River, N.J., on March 15.**

ly and cautiously, often overcome by fear and distrust. It took daily visits for three weeks for Lourdes to trust me enough to provide the information required for the application. Applying for an identity card at the DMV involved a whole day of anxiety and panic. Getting six months of bank statements, a Social Security card, and SSI income verification swallowed up another week's efforts.

Each day began with my making new reassurances that if Lourdes got in the car with me, I wouldn't take her to a mental

hospital. This level of fear and distrust does not emanate from some genetic pathology. It comes from years of being marginalized, excluded, exposed and traumatized. It comes from living one's life in such a public way, and yet being isolated and invisible. Our journey could only succeed if we, together, could dismantle the years of trauma and build an enduring relationship — a bridge back to a genuine place in the community.

We ultimately succeeded. Lourdes now lives in a senior citizen community. She's a proud American who has a home, privacy and new family.

You can see from this one, small tale that the often-repeated goal of "ending homelessness" is far more complicated than those two words convey. And we'll never get there without understanding the roots of the crisis, which include economic recession, the draining of resources caused by wars (as well as the damaged veterans' war produce), the deinstitutionalization of people with serious mental illness in the 1960s and the failure since then to provide adequate community-based mental health services, urban gentrification with its resulting loss of affordable housing, an influx of immigrants forced to live on society's margins, the ready availability of cheap and damaging drugs and our continuing failure to adequately address such issues as racial tensions, gangs and domestic violence.

In cities across the nation, groups and individuals have tried to solve homelessness with heroic rescue operations — shelters in church basements, food banks, drop-in centers and soup kitchens. And governments have gotten involved, too, with a focus on building and operating affordable housing.

But for all the effort and money and good intentions, we've barely made a dent in the number of homeless Americans.

Why? Because we have yet to address the entrenched systems that are hurling people to the margins without an adequate safety net. Yes, with patience, financial resources and a long-term commitment of time and energy, we were able to get Lourdes off the street and into the home she so wanted. But a far more humane, effective — and cheaper — strategy would be to prevent people like Lourdes from winding up homeless in the first place.

As long as we focus on individual pathologies and solutions, we won't touch the problem. In recent years, the nation's priorities have included funding wars in Africa and the Middle East. We've pursued a costly and ineffective "war on drugs" and poured resources into sustaining an economic system that rewards the rich and corporations while penalizing people living in poverty. We've built ever more prisons to house people who are mentally ill or drug abusers. But we haven't looked at how to keep those on society's lowest economic rung from losing their footing and falling into homelessness.

As the country's costly wars in the Middle East wind down, perhaps we can finally focus on some of their victims — homeless veterans and those they share the sidewalks with. Keeping people from ending up on the streets in the first place is the only way we can finally end this immoral, unjust, violation of human rights that we call homelessness.

Mollie Lowery is the development director for Housing Works and a longtime homeless advocate. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.



## SCOREBOARD

Sports  
on AFN

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## Tennis

## Sony Open

**At The Tennis Center at Grand Park  
Key Biscayne, Fla.**  
**Purse: Men's \$1.5 million (Masters  
1000); Women, \$543 million (Premier  
series; Hard-Outdoor  
Singles)**

**Men**  
**First Round**  
Jack Bedene, Slovenia, def. Jimmy  
Wang, Taiwan, 1-6, 6-2, 6-4.  
Aliz Becker, United States, def. Guido  
Pella, Argentina, 6-3, 6-4.  
Stephane Roche, France, def. Alex Bo-  
gomolov Jr., Russia, 7-5, 6-4.  
Daniel Gimeno-Pagola, Spain, def. Kar-  
en Khachanov, Russia, 6-7, 6-8, 6-1, 6-1.  
Denis Istomin, Uzbekistan, def. Nico-  
las Mahut, France, 6-7, 6-8, 6-2.

Yen-Hsun Lu, Taiwan, def. Mikhail Ku-  
shkin, Kazakhstan, 6-1, 3-1, retired.  
Ryan Harrison, United States, def. Fed-  
erico Schiavone, Argentina, 6-4, 6-3.  
Edouard Roger-Vasselin, France, def. Jo-  
hannes Wittenberg, Netherlands, 6-3, 6-4.

Josia Lacko, Slovakia, def. Kenny de  
Scheppe, France, 6-4, 6-4.  
7. Tomáš Berdych, Czech Republic, def. Bernard  
Tompa, Australia, 6-1, 6-4.  
Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, def.  
Bradley Klahn, United States, 7-5, 6-4, 6-4.  
4. Lleyton Hewitt, Australia, def. Robin  
Haase, Netherlands, 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.  
Carlos Berlocq, Argentina, 6-2, 6-3.  
Roderic Bautista Agut, Spain, def.  
Steve Johnson, United States, 6-4, 6-3.  
6-1.

Rafael Sousa, Portugal, def. Pablo Car-  
reno Busta, Spain, 6-4, 7-6 (3).  
3. Sam Querrey, United States, def. Ser-  
giy Stakhovskiy, Ukraine, 7-6 (2), 6-3.  
**Women**  
Angelique Kerber (5), Germany, def. Pe-  
tra Kvitová (8), Czech Republic, 6-3, 6-4.  
Samantha Stosur (16), Australia, def.  
Caroline Garcia (6), France, 6-3, 6-4.  
Ekaterina Makarova (23), Russia, def.  
Lucy Kersley (20), Great Britain, 6-3, 6-4.  
Tsvetana Pironkova, Bulgaria, def. So-  
naria Kirsten (25), Romania, 6-3, 6-3.  
Ana Ivanovic (12), Serbia, def. Lauren  
Davis, United States, 6-1, 6-1.  
6. Maria Bennetto, Italy, def. Olga  
Govortsova, Belarus, 6-3, 6-3.  
7. Lucie Safarova (26), Czech Republic, def.  
Vania King, United States, 6-3, 7-6 (2).

Donna Vekic, Croatia, def. Svetlana  
Kuznetsova (28), Russia, 7-6 (5), 7-5.  
Caroline Garcia (6), France, def. Klara  
Zakopalova (27), Czech Republic, 7-6 (3),  
6-3.  
Petra Kvitová (8), Czech Republic, def.  
Philippa Kyriakou (26), Greece, 6-3, 6-4.  
Sabine Lisicki (14), Germany, def. Na-  
dia Petrova, Russia, 6-3, 6-4, 6-4.  
Caroline Williams (1), United States, def.  
Yaroslava Shvedova, Kazakhstan, 7-6 (2),  
7-5.

Sara Errani (9), Italy, def. Patricia  
Miguel Angel, Belgium, 6-3, 6-4.  
Kirsten Flipkens (19), Belgium, def.  
Vincenzo Razzano, France, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.  
Caroline Garcia (6), France, def. Anastasia  
Pavlyuchenkova (21), Russia, 6-3,  
6-4.

Maria Sharapova (4), Russia, def. Ku-  
runi Nara, Japan, 6-3, 6-4.  
**Doubles**  
**First Round**  
David Marrero, Spain, and Fernando  
Verdasco (5), Spain, def. Andre Boga-  
emann, Germany, and Florian Mayer, Ger-  
many, 6-4, 6-4.  
Eric Butorac, United States, and Raven  
Knapik, United States, def. Divyansha  
India, and Radek Stepanek (4), Czech Re-  
public, 6-3, 7-6 (7).

**Women**  
**First Round**  
Alla Kudryavtseva, Russia, and Anas-  
tasia Rodionova, Australia, def. Ashleigh  
Barty, and Victoria Williams (1), Austre-  
lia, 7-6 (2), 3-6, 10-8.  
Sofia Kenin (5), Russia, def. Hra-  
ditsa Kleybanova, Russia, def. Chuang  
Chia-jung, Taiwan, and Chanelle Scheep-  
ers, South Africa, 6-3, 1-3.

Julia Goerges and Anna-Lena Groene-  
feldt (2), Germany, def. Hra-  
ditsa Kleybanova, Russia, and Michaela Krajci-  
cova, Czech Republic, 6-4, 6-3.  
Czech Black, Zimbabwe, and Sania  
Mirza, India, def. Chan Yung-jan, Taiwan, 6-3, 6-7 (6), 10-8.

## College hockey

## Thursday's scores

**TOURNAMENTS**  
**Big Ten Conference**  
**First Round**  
Penn St., 2, Michigan 1, 2OT  
Ohio St., 2, Michigan St., 1OT

## College basketball

## NCAA Women's tournament

**LINCOLN REGIONAL**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Durham**  
Duke (27-6), vs. Winthrop (24-18)  
DePaul (27-6), vs. Oklahoma (38-14)  
**At Las Vegas**  
Nebraska (25-6), vs. Fresno State (22-10)  
N. Carolina (25-7), vs. BYU (26-6)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**At Storrs, Conn.**  
Georgia (20-11), vs. Saint Joseph's (22-9)  
Utah (34-0), vs. Princeton (New 11-1)  
**At College Station, Texas**  
 Gonzaga (29-4), vs. James Madison  
(28-5)  
Texas A&M (24-8), vs. North Dakota  
(22-9)

## STANFORD REGIONAL

**First Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Ames, Iowa**  
Iowa State (20-10), vs. Florida State  
(20-11)  
Stanford (28-3), vs. South Dakota (19-13)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**At Seattle**  
South Carolina (27-4), vs. Cal State  
Northridge (18-14)  
Middle Tennessee (24-8), vs. Oregon  
State (23-10)

## At Chapel Hill, N.C.

Michigan State (22-9), vs. Hampton  
Atlanta (19-12), vs. Utah (19-12)  
North Carolina (24-9), vs. UT-Marshall  
(24-10)  
**At State College, Pa.**  
Penn State (22-7), vs. Wichita State (26-6)  
Dayton (23-7), vs. Wichita State (26-6)

## NOTRE DAME REGIONAL

**First Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Toledo, Ohio**  
Vanderbilt (19-12), vs. Arizona State (22-9)  
Drexel (22-9), vs. Robert Morris (21-11)  
**At West Lafayette, Ind.**  
Oklahoma State (23-8), vs. Florida Gulf  
Coast (26-7)  
Kentucky (24-8), vs. Wright State (26-8)  
Syracuse (22-9), vs. Chattanooga (29-3)  
California (21-9), vs. Fordham (25-7)  
Baylor (24-9), vs. Western Kentucky (24-9)

## LOUISVILLE REGIONAL

**First Round**  
**Saturday, March 22**  
**At Knoxville, Tenn.**  
Tennessee (26-5), vs. Northwestern  
State (21-12)  
Louisville (22-10), vs. Southern Cal (22-12)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
So. Illinois (23-11), vs. Penn State (22-9)  
Maryland (24-6), vs. Iowa (22-9)  
Texas (22-11), vs. Penn State (22-9)  
**At Iowa City, Iowa**  
Louisville (22-10), vs. Iowa (22-9)  
Iowa (26-8), vs. Marquette (27-6)  
**At Baton Rouge, La.**  
LSU (12-17), vs. Georgia Tech (20-11)  
West Virginia (22-9), vs. Albany (N.Y.)  
(28-4)

## Women's NIT

**First Round**  
**Wednesday, March 19**  
Villanova 74, Quinnipiac 66  
Carolina 68  
Mississippi 62, Green Bay 60  
Colorado 78, TCU 71  
Montana 68, Washington State 78  
Texas Tech 78, Washington State 78

## Thursday, March 20

IUPUI 78, Central Michigan 66  
Bowling Green 72, High Point 62  
Indiana 48, Belmont 47  
Auburn 75, Furman 64  
Harvard 90, Iona 89  
Ole Miss 61, Wake Forest 61  
Princeton 94, UC 76  
Cincinnati 61, Delaware 61  
Old Dominion 68, Navy 60  
Stetson 70, Miami 63  
Marquette 63, Indiana State 61  
SMU 84, Texas Southern 72  
Cincinnati 61, Cal Poly 62  
Creighton 77, Missouri 51  
Northwestern 69, Belmont 65  
Mississippi State 77, Tulane 68  
Southern Miss 75, Lamar 68  
Cincinnati 61, Cal Poly 62  
St. Mary's (Calif.), Colorado State 56  
Oregon 50, Pacific 65

## Friday, March 21

Southern Brook 61, Michigan 18  
Mount St. Mary's (19-13), at Duquesne  
(13-12)  
Charlotte (15-15), at St. Bonaventure  
(23-10)  
North Carolina A&T (24-6), at South  
Florida (19-12)  
Cal State Bakersfield (29-11), at Saint  
Mary's (Calif.) (22-11)  
Arkansas State (22-11), at UTEP (24-7)  
Hawaii (17-13), at Washington (17-13)

## College baseball

## Thursday's scores

N.J. City, 1, Old Westbury 0  
**SOUTH**  
Anderson (S.C.), 3, GRU Augusta 4  
Cincinnati-Clermont 22, Kentucky 31  
2  
Limestone 6, Leinor-Rhyme 4  
Randolph-Macon 11, Mary Washing-  
ton 7  
St. Andrews 7, Erskine 1  
Shenandoah 21, E. Tennessee 6  
Union (Tenn.) 7, Le Moyne-Owen 3-1  
Virginia 14, Princeton 4

## Pro baseball

## Spring training

## AMERICAN LEAGUE

W	L	Pct
Tampa Bay	15	5.750
Cleveland	15	5.750
Seattle	16	5.714
San Diego	16	5.714
New York	13	5.591
Los Angeles	13	5.591
Detroit	11	5.591
Kansas City	11	5.591
Toronto	11	5.591
New York	10	5.454
Los Angeles	10	5.454
Minnesota	7	4.121
Boston	7	4.121
Boston	13	3.881
Texas	16	3.136

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

W	L	Pct
San Francisco	11	5.579
Pittsburgh	11	5.579
San Francisco	11	5.579
Arizona	11	5.579
Washington	11	5.579
New York	10	5.500
Milwaukee	10	5.500
Cincinnati	10	5.500
Los Angeles	10	5.500
Los Angeles	10	5.500
San Diego	10	5.500
Philadelphia	10	5.500

## Note: Split-games count in the standings; games against non-major

## Thursday's games

Philadelphia (65), Houston 3  
Miami 4, St. Louis 3  
San Francisco (65), Detroit 1  
New York 7, Atlanta 6  
Los Angeles 5, Texas 4, 10 innings  
Seattle 3, Chicago Cubs 0  
Cincinnati 3, Kansas City 2  
Milwaukee 4, Colorado 3  
N.Y. Yankees 3, Pittsburgh 2  
N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 4  
Cleveland 11, San Diego 3

## Friday's games

Washington vs. Miami at Jupiter, Fla.  
Miami vs. Houston at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Philadelphia at Clearwater, Fla.  
Atlanta (ss) vs. Baltimore at Sarasota, Fla.  
Detroit vs. Atlanta (ss) at Kissimmee, Fla.  
Toronto vs. Tampa Bay at Port Char-  
lotte, Fla.  
N.Y. Mets vs. Minnesota at Fort Myers, Fla.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Chicago White Sox at Glendale, Ariz.  
Milwaukee vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.  
Kansas City (ss) vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear, Ariz.  
Kansas City (ss) vs. L.A. Angels at Glendale, Ariz.  
Cleveland vs. Colorado at Scottsdale, Ariz.  
Pittsburgh vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa, Fla.  
Oakland vs. San Francisco at Scotts-  
dale, Ariz.  
San Diego vs. Seattle at Peoria, Ill.

## PGA TOUR

**At Bay Hill Club and Lodge Course**  
**Purse: \$6.2 million**  
**Yardage: 7,236 Yds (26-36)**  
**First Round**  
**(a-anometer)**

Adam Scott	31-31-62	10
Rory Ishikawa	33-32-65	25
Justin Rose	33-32-65	25
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano	35-31-66	6
Adam Scott	35-31-66	6
Paul Casey	33-34-67	5
Sam Snead	33-34-67	5
John Kokrak	33-34-67	5
Charles Howell III	33-34-67	5
Ryan Moore	33-34-67	5
Charles Howell III	33-34-67	5
J.L. Holmes	33-35-68	4
Brendan Steele	34-34-68	4
Sam Snead	34-34-68	4
Greene McDowell	33-35-68	4
Adam Scott	33-35-68	4
Patrick Reed	35-34-69	3
Trevor Immelman	36-33-69	3
Charles Howell III	36-33-69	3
Henrik Stenson	34-35-69	3
Charles Howell III	34-35-69	3
Henrik Stenson	34-35-69	3
Charles Howell III	34-35-69	3
Sam Saunders	35-35-70	2
Pat Perez	35-35-70	2
Kevin Na	35-35-70	2
K.J. Choi	35-35-70	2
Seon Yoon Yoo	35-35-70	2
Billy Horschel	34-36-70	2
Jonathan Vegas	35-35-70	2
Cameron Tringale	36-34-70	2
Padraig Harrington	35-35-70	2
Ryan Baddiey	34-36-70	2
Hunter Mahan	35-35-70	2
Jeffrey Goff	35-35-70	2
David Hearn	35-35-70	2
Brian Davis	35-35-70	2
Michael Putnam	33-37-70	2
Sean O'Hair	35-35-70	2
Shenandoah 21, E. Tennessee 6	37-34-71	1
Mike Guthrie	36-36-71	1
Justin Rose	35-36-71	1

## Golf

## Arnold Palmer Invitational

## PGA TOUR

## Thursday

## At Bay Hill Club and Lodge Course

## Purse: \$6.2 million

## Yardage: 7,236 Yds (26-36)

## First Round

## (a-anometer)

## Adam Scott

## 31-31-62

## 10

## Rory Ishikawa

## 33-32-65

## 25

## Justin Rose

## 33-32-65

## 25

## Gonzalo Fdez-Castano

## 35-31-66

## 6

## Adam Scott

## 35-31-66

## 6

## Paul Casey

## 33-34-67

## 5

## Sam Snead

## 33-34-67

## 5

## John Kokrak

## 33-34-67

## 5

## Charles Howell III

## 33-34-67

## 5

## Ryan Moore

## 33-34-67

## 5

## Saturday's games

Baltimore vs. Tampa Bay at Port Char-  
lotte, Fla.  
Philadelphia vs. Pittsburgh at Braden-  
ton, Fla.  
Detroit vs. Toronto at Dunedin, Fla.  
St. Louis vs. Houston at Kissimmee,  
Fla.  
Miami (ss) vs. Washington at Viera,  
Fla.  
N.Y. Yankees vs. Minnesota at Fort My-  
ers, Fla.  
Boston vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee, Fla.  
N.Y. Mets vs. Miami (ss) at Jupiter,  
Fla.  
Colorado (ss) vs. Cleveland at Good-  
year, Ariz.  
L.A. Angels vs. Milwaukee at Phoenix  
Seattle (ss) vs. Oakland at Phoenix  
Chicago White Sox (ss) vs. San Diego  
at Peoria, Ariz.  
San Francisco vs. Chicago White Sox  
(ss) at Glendale, Ariz.  
Texas vs. Kansas City at Surprise,  
Ariz.  
Cincinnati vs. Chicago Cubs at Mesa,  
Ariz.  
Seattle (ss) vs. Colorado (ss) at Scot-  
tsdale, Ariz.

## Sunday's games

Tampa Bay vs. Boston at Fort Myers,  
Fla.  
Pittsburgh vs. Baltimore at Sarasota,  
Fla.  
Houston vs. St. Louis at Jupiter, Fla.  
N.Y. Mets vs. Atlanta at Kissimmee,  
Fla.  
Toronto vs. N.Y. Yankees at Tampa,  
Fla.  
Minnesota vs. Philadelphia at Clear-  
water, Fla.  
Miami vs. Detroit at Lakeland, Fla.  
Chicago Cubs vs. Oakland (ss) at  
Phoenix  
Cincinnati City vs. San Francisco at Scot-  
tsdale, Ariz.  
Seattle (ss) vs. Seattle at Peoria,  
Ariz.  
Milwaukee vs. Cincinnati at Goodyear,  
Ariz.  
San Diego vs. Texas at Surprise, Ariz.  
Cleveland vs. L.A. Angels at Tempe,  
Ariz.  
Chicago White Sox vs. Colorado at  
Scottsdale, Ariz.

## National League

## East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	0	0.000	—
Miami	0	0.000	—
New York	0	0.000	—
Philadelphia	0	0.000	—
Washington	0	0.000	—

## Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	0	0.000	—
St. Louis	0	0.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0.000	—
Pittsburgh	0	0.000	—
Milwaukee	0	0.000	—
St. Louis	0	0.000	—
Arizona	0	0.000	—
Colorado	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
San Diego	0	0.000	—
San Francisco	0	0.000	—

## West Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—
Los Angeles	0	0.000	—

## Saturday's games

## LPGA TOUR

## At J.W. Mather, Phoenix Desert Ridge

## Resort &amp; Spa, Wildfire Golf Course

## Purse: \$1.5 million

## Yardage: 6,583 Yds (72-36)

## First Round

## Mirim Lee

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Morgan Pressel

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Azzah Munir

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Stacy Lewis

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Grainne O'Leary

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Caitlin Matthews

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Inbee Park

## 34-30-64

## 8

## Azzah Mun

## SPORTS BRIEFS/MLB

## Briefly

## Scott races out to 3-shot lead at Bay Hill

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Adam Scott must have wondered why it took him five years to return to the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

This wasn't the Bay Hill anyone remembered. The sky was bright blue with warm sunshine. Wind was only a rumor. And the biggest difference was seeing a 10-under 62 next to Scott's name before half the field had even hit a shot.

"I remembered the golf course to certainly favor the way I play. I just had a few frustrating years here and left it off the schedule," Scott said after his record-tying round Thursday at gentle Bay Hill. "Coming back fresh was obviously a good thing. But I like the changes they've made since the time I have not been here. And today was just one of those days where the hole was a bit like a bucket."

Scott made five putts from about 20 feet or longer, two of them for eagle and one of them from off the green for birdie. Even with a bogey in the middle of his round, his 62 was the lowest at Bay Hill in 30 years. Greg Norman had a 62 in 1984, and Andy Bean shot 62 in 1981.

## Bengals sign QB Jason Campbell to be backup

CINCINNATI — The Bengals have signed quarterback Jason Campbell to be Andy Dalton's backup.

Campbell has played for Wash-



WILLIE J. ALLEN JR./AP

Adam Scott hits from the fairway on the fifth hole during the first round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational at Bay Hill on Thursday in Orlando, Fla. Scott shot a 10-under 62 to take a 3-shot lead.

ington, Oakland, Chicago and Cleveland. He started eight of the Browns' last nine games last season.

In other NFL news:

■ The Houston Texans have signed veteran free agent quarterback Ryan Fitzpatrick.

Fitzpatrick is a nine-year NFL veteran who started nine games for

the Titans last season and threw for 2,454 yards and 14 touchdowns.

■ Fullback Bruce Miller signed a three-year contract extension with the San Francisco 49ers on Thursday, ensuring they can keep a key member of the team's running game through the 2017 season.

■ The Atlanta Falcons have

agreed to terms with return specialist Devin Hester.

The team announced the deal Thursday. The 31-year-old Hester is a three-time Pro-Bowler who last year tied an NFL record with his 19th scoring return in eight seasons with the Chicago Bears.

■ The Arizona Cardinals agreed on the terms of a one-year

contract Thursday with free agent cornerback Antonio Cromartie.

A three-time Pro Bowl selection, Cromartie spent the past four seasons with the New York Jets.

■ Safety Charles Woodson has agreed to a one-year deal to remain with the Oakland Raiders.

The 37-year-old Woodson started all 16 games last season with one interception, two sacks, three passes defended, three forced fumbles and two fumble recoveries.

## Williams wins opening match at Sony Open

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla. — Trailing in the first set of her first match at the Sony Open, Serena Williams grunted with every shot and screamed with every point she won.

And then, on the pivotal point, she didn't make a sound — or take a swing.

Williams capitalized on a critical double-fault Thursday by Yaroslava Shvedova to survive a 69-minute first set and win, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

"It was an incredibly tough first set," Williams said. "I just needed to relax and yet keep up the intensity."

The top-ranked Williams seeks a record seventh Key Biscayne title, and her second in a row.

On the men's side, Lleyton Hewitt became the third active man to win 600 matches when he rallied past Robin Haase 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

## Reds' Chapman fortunate to only have broken bone

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

GOODYEAR, Ariz. — Cincinnati Reds closer Aroldis Chapman underwent a 2½-hour operation Thursday to repair a broken bone above his left eye but has no other serious injuries after being hit in the face by a line drive in a spring training game.

Team medical director Dr. Timothy Kremchek said Chapman could begin throwing off a mound in six to eight weeks, a timetable that could get him back in games in late May. The left-hander with a fastball that has reached 105 mph could start exercising and throwing on flat ground in a couple of weeks, Kremchek said.

The doctor called Chapman "a very lucky guy."

The surgery was performed by cranial facial plastic surgeon Dr. Ed Joganic.

Kremchek said earlier that a metal plate would be inserted in the bone above Chapman's left eyebrows and would remain there permanently. Chapman has a very mild concussion but no other brain injury and no injury to his eye, Kremchek said.

"He's feeling better and he has some pain management. We're optimistic that he is going to be on the mound," Reds manager Bryan Price said after meeting with players Thursday morning at the team's

spring training facility. "Obviously, we'll stay in touch. We will make sure we follow the process as we continue to get familiar with the injury itself. We will let him know how much support he has and that we care about him. Hopefully, we will see him here very soon."

Cincinnati catcher Brayan Pena, a fellow Cuban and Chapman's close friend, was one of several Reds players who visited the injured pitcher Wednesday night and spoke to him on the phone Thursday morning.

"He was talking to me and we joked a lot," Pena said. "He just wanted to make sure for me to tell everybody that he appreciates so much the fans' prayers, especially our teammates, our coaching staff, everybody around, how much support and how much love he received and got from all of us."

Pena said Chapman was very happy when they spoke Thursday, "talking and joking. He was talking a lot about some Cuban jokes and that's good because that means his memory is still working pretty good."

The frightening incident, widely available on video via the Internet, occurred in the sixth inning of Wednesday night's game at Kansas City's spring training facility in Surprise, where the Royals'



JAE C. HONG/AP

Cincinnati Reds relief pitcher Aroldis Chapman was hit in the face by a line drive Wednesday night and taken to a hospital with a cut above his left eye. Chapman underwent an operation Thursday to repair a broken bone above his left eye and is expected to be back throwing off a mound in six to eight weeks.

Salvador Perez lined Chapman's 99 mph fastball into the pitcher's face. Chapman was knocked backward to the ground, then rolled on his face, kicking in pain.

Pena rushed to the mound.

"Honestly, when I saw it I wanted to cry," Pena said. "That was my first feeling because it was very scary. It was very scary because I saw the line drive going

straight for his face, and then I saw him bleeding and kicking and moving around the way he was."

Pena said Chapman "wasn't even talking. He was just like moaning and making sounds and then when I got there I panicked because I didn't know what else to do. Then the medical staff guys got there, and those guys were great."

## NHL



DUANE BURLESON/AP

Detroit's Daniel Alfredsson receives high-fives from teammates on the bench after scoring against Pittsburgh during the first period of Thursday's game in Detroit. The Red Wings won 5-4 in overtime.

## Roundup

# Alfredsson's OT goal lifts Red Wings over Penguins

The Associated Press

DETROIT — Daniel Alfredsson scored his second goal of the game with a second left in overtime to give the Detroit Red Wings a 5-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Thursday.

Alfredsson's shot went off Pittsburgh goaltender Marc-Andre Fleury and appeared to be knocked into the net by Penguins defenseman Rob Scuderi, who scored into his own net earlier in the game. The goal stood after video review.

Detroit was up 2-0, trailed 3-2 and led 4-3 lead with 7:43 left. Craig Adams pulled Pittsburgh back into the game two minutes later.

Gustav Nyquist, Tomas Tatar and Todd Bertuzzi also scored for Detroit.

Evgeni Malkin had two goals and Lee Stempniak added one for Pittsburgh.

Fleury made 25 saves. Detroit's Jimmy Howard stopped 39 shots.

**Sharks 3, Ducks 2:** Brent Burns scored the tie-breaking goal with 3:59 left to help host San Jose beat Anaheim and take sole possession of first place in the Pacific Division for the first time in more than three months.

Joe Thornton tied the game earlier in the third and got his second assist on the game-winner for the Sharks, who have won seven of eight to move two points ahead of Anaheim.

**Kings 2, Capitals 1 (SO):** Marian Gaborik got the deciding goal in the shootout and host Los Angeles beat Washington to give Darryl Sutter his 500th regular-season victory as an NHL coach.

Jonathan Quick tied Rogie Vachon for the most career victories by a Kings goaltender and stopped Alex Ovechkin, who leads the league with 46 goals, on the Capitals' second shot in the tiebreaker.

**Flyers 4, Stars 2:** Wayne Simmonds scored two goals as host Philadelphia beat Dallas for its fourth straight win.

Mark Streit and Michael Raffl also scored for

Philadelphia, which maintained its hold on second place in the Metropolitan Division.

Jamie Benn scored twice for Dallas, which lost its fourth straight.

**Sabres 3, Oilers 1:** Cory Conacher had two goals and an assist as visiting Buffalo beat Edmonton to end a seven-game losing streak.

Drew Stafford also scored for Buffalo, which had been outscored 21-6 during its skid.

Taylor Hall had Edmonton's goal.

**Coyotes 2, Panthers 1:** Radim Vrbata and Antoine Vermette scored first-period goals as host Phoenix held on to win its third in a row.

Coyotes goalie Mike Smith had a shutout until Chris Gomez scored with 4:08 left. Smith had 22 saves.

Phoenix has won five of six and seven of nine.

**Blue Jackets 3, Canadiens 2:** Ryan Johansen scored late in the third period to give visiting Columbus a victory that ended Montreal's three-game winning streak.

Derek Mackenzie and Brandon Dubinsky also scored for Columbus. Sergei Bobrovsky, the reigning Vezina Trophy winner, made 25 saves while starting the Blue Jackets' 16th straight game and 23rd in the wild 24.

**Devils 4, Wild 3 (OT):** Andy Greene scored from in close 2 minutes into overtime as host New Jersey ended a three-game losing streak by beating Minnesota in Zach Parise's first game against his former teammates.

Adam Henrique and Patrik Elias each had three assists and combined to set up the game-winner for New Jersey, which blew a two-goal third-period lead.

**Lightning 5, Senators 4:** Teddy Purcell scored twice and Ryan Callahan had a power-play goal midway through the third period to lead visiting Tampa Bay over Ottawa.

Valtteri Filppula and Eric Brewer also scored for the Lightning, who have won five in a row.

## Scoreboard

## Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	69	47	17	5	99	223	149
Tampa Bay	70	39	24	7	85	208	185
Montreal	71	36	26	9	81	192	180
Ottawa	71	36	27	8	80	208	219
Detroit	69	24	34	11	62	163	212
Toronto	69	28	28	13	69	198	234
Ottawa	70	26	36	8	60	173	225
Buffalo	70	20	42	8	48	136	206

Metropolitan Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	69	40	18	11	95	218	173
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

## Western Conference

Central Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
St. Louis	69	47	15	7	101	226	156
Chicago	70	40	15	15	95	207	162
Colorado	70	44	20	6	94	216	192
Minnesota	70	36	23	11	83	174	172
Dallas	69	32	26	11	75	196	201
Winnipeg	71	32	30	9	73	199	208
Nashville	70	24	31	10	58	165	208

Pacific Division	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
San Jose	71	46	18	9	99	219	170
Anaheim	70	45	18	7	97	222	178
Los Angeles	70	35	24	6	76	170	161
Phoenix	70	34	25	11	79	194	197
Vancouver	72	30	30	10	74	172	194
Calgary	69	28	34	7	63	168	203
Edmonton	71	25	37	9	59	177	228

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

**Wednesday's games**  
Tampa Bay 5, Toronto 3  
Chicago 4, St. Louis 0  
Winnipeg 5, Colorado 4, OT  
Vancouver 2, Nashville 0

**Thursday's games**  
Los Angeles 2, Washington 1, SO  
Philadelphia 4, Minnesota 3, OT  
Philadelphia 4, Dallas 2

**Friday's games**  
N.Y. Rangers at Columbus  
Carolina at Chicago  
Boston at Colorado  
Nashville at Calgary

**Saturday's games**  
St. Louis at Philadelphia  
Tampa Bay at Pittsburgh  
Detroit at Minnesota  
Ottawa at Dallas  
Florida at Los Angeles  
Montreal at Toronto  
N.Y. Rangers at New Jersey  
Carolina at Winnipeg  
Boston at Phoenix  
Calgary at Edmonton  
Washington at San Jose

## Thursday

Sabres 3, Oilers 1	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Buffalo	70	40	18	11	95	218	173
Edmonton	71	33	34	11	77	205	211

**First Period**—1, Edmonton, Hall 24 (Schultz, Perron), 17:48 (pp).

**Second Period**—2, Buffalo, Conacher 5 (Morrison), 10:09, 4, Buffalo, Stafford 15 (Ennis, Conacher), 4:44.

**Third Period**—3, Buffalo, Conacher 6 (Hodson), 1:09, 4, Buffalo, Stafford 15 (Ennis, Conacher), 4:44.

**Power-play opportunities**—Buffalo 1 of 2; Edmonton 1 of 6.

**Goals**—Buffalo, Hackett 1-0-0 (36 shots-27 saves), Phoenix, Smith 11-12-4 (36-33).

A-16,639 (16,839). T-2:35.

## Friday

Coyotes 2, Panthers 1	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Phoenix	70	40	18	11	95	218	173
San Jose	71	46	18	9	99	219	170

**First Period**—1, Phoenix, Vrbata 20 (Harris, Henrique), 16:58.

**Second Period**—2, Phoenix, Vermette 23 (Stone, Boedker), 18:38.

**Third Period**—3, Florida, Gomez 2 (Kulikov), 15:53.

**Power-play opportunities**—Florida 0 of 3; Phoenix 1 of 7.

**Goals**—Phoenix, Luongo 22-27-17 (22 shots-27 saves), Phoenix, Smith 27-20-10 (22-22).

A-14,442 (17,125). T-2:20.

## Saturday

Devils 4, Wild 3 (OT)	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Minnesota	70	40	18	11	95	218	173
New Jersey	71	46	18	9	99	219	170

**First Period**—1, New Jersey, Ryder 17 (Elias, Henrique), 16:58.

**Second Period**—2, New Jersey, Farise 24 (Harris, Henrique), 14:34.

**Third Period**—3, Minnesota, Parise 24 (Harris, Henrique), 14:34.

**Power-play opportunities**—Minnesota 1 of 5; New Jersey 0 of 3.

**Goals**—Minnesota, Bryzgalov 6-8-7 (22 shots-27 saves), New Jersey, Schneider 13-14-9 (23-20).

A-14,772 (17,625). T-2:30.

## Flyers 4, Stars 2

Philadelphia	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	69	47	17	5	99	223	149
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

**First Period**—1, Philadelphia, Simmonds 23 (Lucas, B. Schenn), 12:21.

**Second Period**—3, Dallas, Ja.Benn 28 (Sequin, Goligoski), 12:45 (pp).

**Third Period**—4, Philadelphia, Simmonds 23 (Lucas, B. Schenn), 12:21.

**Goals**—Dallas, Thomas 18-22-4 (29 shots-27 saves), Philadelphia, Mason 29-16-6 (35-33).

A-19,831 (19,541). T-2:33.

**Blue Jackets 3, Canadiens 2**

Columbus	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Montreal	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

**First Period**—1, Montreal, Gallagher 18 (Gallagher, Plekhanov), 14:53 (pp).

**Second Period**—3, Columbus, Dubinsky 14 (Comeau, Johnson), 6:53.

**Third Period**—4, Montreal, Vanek 25 (Pacoretty, Subban), 7:46, 5, Columbus, Johansen 16:59.

**Missed Penalty Shot**—Eller, Mon, 3:21 (gh).

**Shots on Goal**—Columbus 16-13-11, 40, Montreal 12-7-8-27.

**Power-play opportunities**—Columbus 0 of 8; Montreal 1 of 3.

**Goals**—Columbus, Bobrovsky 27-17-4 (27 shots-25 saves), Montreal, Price 28-18-5 (40-31).

A-21,273 (21,273). T-2:37.

## Lightning 5, Senators 4

Tampa Bay	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Ottawa	69	47	17	5	99	223	149
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

**First Period**—1, Tampa Bay, Marleau 23 (Hedman, Johnson), 2:31, 2, Ottawa, MacArthur 21 (Turris), 10:44 (sh).

**Second Period**—3, Tampa Bay, Purcell 12 (Hedman, B. Schenn), 12:38.

**Third Period**—4, Tampa Bay, Purcell 12 (Hedman, B. Schenn), 12:38.

**Shots on Goal**—Tampa Bay 11-10-7, 28, Ottawa 10-11-31.

**Power-play opportunities**—Tampa Bay 2 of 6; Ottawa 1 of 5.

**Goals**—Tampa Bay, Bishop 34-11-6 (31 shots-27 saves), Ottawa, Lanner 14-5 (22-23).

A-17,136 (19,153). T-2:30.

**Red Wings 5, Penguins 4 (OT)**

Pittsburgh	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Detroit	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

**First Period**—2, Detroit, Nyquist 16 (Branson, Dokeroy), 7:21.

**Second Period**—2, Detroit, Nyquist 16 (Branson, Dokeroy), 7:21.

**Third Period**—6, Detroit, Tatar 15 (Sheahan, DeKeyser), 9:59, 7, Detroit, Bertuzzi 9, 12:17, 8, Pittsburgh, Adams 4 (Sutter, Gibbons), 14:17.

**Power-play opportunities**—Detroit 1 of 5; Pittsburgh 1 of 5.

**Goals**—Pittsburgh, Fleury 34-10-25 (30 shots-27 saves), Detroit, Howard 16-10-43 (39-39).

A-18,556 (20,066). T-2:37.

## Kings 2, Capitals 1 (SO)

Washington	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles	69	47	17	5	99	223	149
Philadelphia	69	37	25	7	81	199	197
Columbus	69	37	27	6	78	199	189
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	29	4	78	185	174
Washington	71	33	34	11	77	205	211
New Jersey	70	36	27	12	75	172	183
Carolina	69	30	30	9	69	172	195
N.Y. Islanders	70	26	35	9	61	152	239

**First Period**—1, San Jose, Marleau 29 (Thornton, Couture), 13:52 (pp).

**Second Period**—3, Los Angeles, Perreault 15 (Perry, Getzlaf), 17:40 (pp).

**Third Period**—4, Los Angeles, Selanne 8 (Perry, Getzlaf), 1:43, 4, San Jose, Thornton 11 (Burns, Pavelski), 8:31.

**Power-play opportunities**—Washington 0 of 3; Los Angeles 4 of 5.

**Goals**—Washington, Halak 28-1



# AUTO RACING

## Around the track

### SPRINT CUP

**This week:** Auto Club 400 at Fontana, Calif.

**TV:** AFN-Xtra, 8 p.m. Sunday, CET.

**Track:** Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

**Race distance:** 400 miles, 200 laps.

**Last year:** Kyle Busch completed a weekend sweep, winning after Joey Logano wrecked Denny Hamlin on the last lap. Hamlin fractured a vertebra and missed almost five full races.

**Last week:** Carl Edwards won the rain-shortened race at Bristol.

**Fast facts:** Six-time series champion Jimmie Johnson has a series-high five victories at the track. He was 12th last year.

**Next race:** STP 500, March 30, Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

**Online:** nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### Driver standings

1. Brad Keselowski.....	163
2. Dale Earnhardt Jr.....	153
3. Carl Edwards.....	152
4. Jeff Gordon.....	152
5. Jimmie Johnson.....	143
6. Joey Logano.....	141
7. Denny Hamlin.....	140
8. Matt Kenseth.....	138
9. Ryan Newman.....	125
10. Ricky Stenhouse Jr.....	122
11. Kasey Kahne.....	120
12. Greg Biffle.....	118
13. Austin Dillon.....	117
14. Kyle Busch.....	111
15. Marcos Ambrose.....	108
16. Jamie McMurray.....	100
17. Paul Menard.....	99
18. Brian Vickers.....	99
19. Casey Mears.....	97
20. Aric Almirola.....	95

### Driver to watch

Tony Stewart has struggled in his return from a leg injury, but things might be turning around for "Smoke." After disappointing starts at Daytona and Phoenix, Stewart turned in a fourth-place finish in last week's rain-plagued race at Bristol. "It's a step in the right direction for sure. This is a big one. If you come out of this place with a top-five you've had a good day," he told The Associated Press. Stewart stands a good chance of keeping his momentum: He has won two of the past four races at Fontana.



### NATIONWIDE SERIES

**This week:** Auto Club 300 at Fontana, Calif.

**TV:** (Delayed) AFN-Xtra, 8 a.m. Sunday, CET.

**Track:** Auto Club Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

**Race distance:** 300 miles, 150 laps.

**Last year:** Kyle Busch gave Joe Gibbs Racing its ninth consecutive Nationwide victory at the track, comfortably beating Sam Hornish Jr.

**Last week:** Busch raced to his 16th career Bristol victory, the most by a NASCAR driver at any track. He held off Kyle Larson after a late restart.

**Fast facts:** Busch has a record 65 series victories. He also won the rain-shortened Phoenix race this year. ... Tony Stewart started Joe Gibbs Racing's Fontana winning streak in February 2008, and Busch has six victories and Joey Logano two for the team. Busch, Matt Kenseth and Elliott Sadler are driving for JGR this week.

**Next race:** O'Reilly Auto Parts 300, April 4, Texas Motor Speedway, Fort Worth, Texas.

**Online:** nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### CAMPING WORLD TRUCKS SERIES

**Next race:** Kroger 250, March 29, Martinsville (Va.) Speedway.

**Last race:** Kyle Busch won at Daytona on Feb. 21 to become the first driver to win Truck, ARCA, Nationwide and Sprint Cup races at the track.

**Online:** nascar.com

— The Associated Press

### VERIZON INDYCAR

**Next race:** Firestone Grand Prix of St. Petersburg (Fla.), March 30, Streets of St. Petersburg.

**Online:** indycar.com

— The Associated Press

### FORMULA ONE

**Next race:** Malaysian Grand Prix, March 30, Sepang International Circuit, Kuala Lumpur.

**Last week:** Mercedes' Nico Rosberg won the season-opening Australian Grand Prix. Second-place finisher Daniel Ricciardo of Red Bull was disqualified for a breach of fuel regulations.

**Online:** formula1.com

— The Associated Press

### NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

**Next event:** SummitRacing.com NHRA Nationals, March 28-30, The Strip at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

**Last week:** Robert Hight won the Gatornationals, beating boss John Force in the Funny Car final. Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel, Allen Johnson in Pro Stock, and Steve Johnson in Pro Stock Motorcycle.

**Online:** nhra.com

— The Associated Press

### OTHER RACES

**ARCA RACING SERIES:** ARCA-Mobile 200, Saturday, Mobile International Speedway, Irvington, Ala.

**WORLD OF OUTLAWS:** Sprint Car: FVP Western Spring Shootout, Saturday, Stockton (Calif.) Dirt Track.

— The Associated Press



WADE PAYNE/AP

Crew members cover the cars during one of two weather delays lasting a total of more than five hours at the NASCAR Sprint Cup race at Bristol Motor Speedway in Bristol, Tenn., on Sunday. Moving the Bristol race to later in the season could help with better weather conditions, but individual track politics and NASCAR's reluctance to change the racing schedule complicate a possible move.

# Schedule change would help weather difficulties

Of the many things NASCAR can't control, the weather is at the top of the list.

NASCAR can't make it be warm and sunny every race day and NASCAR can't stave off rain showers or cold fronts.

What NASCAR can control is the schedule. After rain delayed a second Sprint Cup race in this four-week-old season, it's time to consider some tweaks.

The Daytona 500 will always be the season-opening race and nobody is suggesting that should change. But a rain delay of nearly six hours last month pushed the bulk of the race into prime time for the second time in three years.

There's something electric about running NASCAR's version of the Super Bowl under the lights and the race pace showed the drivers felt it, too.

So just go ahead and make the Daytona 500 a night race. It may still rain on race days, but Fox won't be forced to fill hours of programming waiting for it to clear.

NASCAR then headed west to Phoenix, extended the swing a week with a stop in Las Vegas, then headed back home. Next up on the schedule was Sunday's stop at Bristol Motor Speedway in Tennessee, once one of the most coveted tickets in NASCAR.

The track has been one of the hardest hit since the 2008 economic downturn. A streak of 55

consecutive sellouts was snapped in 2010 and attendance for the spring race has dwindled every year. Some fans blamed a 2007 track reconfiguration for ruining the racing and there were complaints about high hotel rates.

Both reasons are valid and true. But overlooked is that Bristol's first race of the season has slowly inched up the NASCAR calendar since 2005, when it went from the sixth race of the season to fifth in the Sprint Cup Series schedule.

That was OK in 2005, when NASCAR had an early off weekend and Bristol's race date was April 3. But the next year, it was moved to March and by 2011 it was the fourth race of the season.

Track officials were not surprised when the weather fluctuated wildly all last week, hitting the mid-70s before plummeting into the 40s when NASCAR rolled into town. The forecast for Sunday's race called for 100 percent chance of rain — and the two delays added up to more than five hours, with the race finishing deep into the night, under the lights.

Bristol general manager Jerry Caldwell believes he's got a valid argument for a new race date.

"I think the right place for us is mid- to late April, given the weather conditions around here," Caldwell said.

Caldwell readily admits the end result was one of the most stirring spring races the track has ever hosted, one that could make a compelling argument for Bristol to hold all its Cup events at night. But that wouldn't work with Bristol's current race date.

"It's not about rain. You can have rain anywhere. It's about the

cold at night here," he said.

It was cold Sunday and only a few thousand die-hards stuck it out to the finish. They were treated to a tremendous race, but one that ended under strange circumstances when the caution lights were triggered right before Carl Edwards took the white flag.

NASCAR's official process for changing race dates is through realignment, which would mean Bristol and its Speedway Motorsports Inc. ownership group would be responsible for working out a change with another venue.

"There are so many different dominoes that have to play out," Caldwell said. "And NASCAR has at times pushed back and told us to work it out with Speedway Motorsports and see if there's someone to trade with. They're in a challenging spot trying to please everyone."

Indeed, lots of tracks want April race dates because the weather is generally nice. But Bristol doesn't have much to work with in terms of making a swap. There's only one SMI-owned track, Texas Motor Speedway, scheduled to host a race in April.

Texas faces the same weather issues as Bristol so a swap is not possible, but Caldwell would be willing to consider racing on the open Easter weekend if it got Bristol into April. He'd also be willing to consider a night race after the success this past weekend.

The problem can be fixed by NASCAR and politics shouldn't be part of the scheduling decisions.

It should be about what's best for the racing, what's best for the fans and where the weather would be least likely to ruin the show.

## In the Pits



by JENNA FRYER • AP

## NBA



TONY DEJAK/AP

Thunder forward Kevin Durant, right, is fouled by the Cavaliers' Alonzo Gee during the third quarter of Thursday's game in Cleveland. Oklahoma City defeated Cleveland 102-95.

# Thunder hold off Cavs

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Kevin Durant scored 35 points and Serge Ibaka had 16 as the Oklahoma City Thunder held off a furious Cleveland comeback for a 102-95 win over the injury-riddled Cavaliers on Thursday.

Durant missed five of his first six shots, but the NBA's top scorer finally found his touch. He has scored 25 or more in 33 straight games — the NBA's second-longest streak since Michael Jordan did it 40 consecutive times (1986-87).

With their 50th win, the Thunder, who let a 24-point lead dwindle to five in the fourth, moved within 1½ games of San Antonio for the best record in the Western Conference.

Dion Waters scored 30 for the Cavs, who were without injured star guard Kyrie Irving.

**Rockets 129, Timberwolves 106:** James Harden had 28 points with eight assists as Houston rolled to victory over visiting Minnesota.

The Rockets trailed by as many as 10 before using a big run in the second quarter to take the lead.

Turkish center Omer Asik started in place of injured Dwight Howard, who has a strained left ankle, and scored 12 points as the Rockets won for the seventh time in 10 games.

Kevin Love scored 29 points and Senegalese rookie Gorgui Dieng had 22 points and 21 rebounds, both career-highs.

**Trail Blazers 116, Wizards 103:** Wesley Matthews had 28 points, including four three-pointers, as host Portland beat Washington.

Damian Lillard added 23 points and 10 assists for the Blazers, who are still without injured All-Star LaMarcus Aldridge.

Portland remained in fifth place in the Western Conference with three victories in its last four games after a four-game losing streak.

John Wall had 24 points and 14 assists for the Wizards, who have lost two straight to open four-game West Coast swing.

**Warriors 115, Bucks 110:** Stephen Curry had 31 points and 11 assists and Klay Thompson scored 29 as host Golden State moved 18 games over .500



BEN MAROAT/AP

Bucks guard Ramon Sessions shoots against the Warriors' Marreese Speights on Thursday. Golden State won 115-110, moving 18 games over .500 for the first time in 20 years.

for the first time in 20 years.

David Lee added 22 points and 12 rebounds to help the Warriors win a tougher-than-expected game against the NBA's worst team.

Golden State remains in sixth place in the tight Western Conference standings, 1½ games behind Portland and 2½ games ahead of Memphis and Dallas with 12 games left.

Brandon Knight had 27 points and eight rebounds, and Ramon Sessions scored 18 for Milwaukee, which has lost six straight and nine of 10.

## Scoreboard

### Eastern Conference

#### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	29	.567	—
Brooklyn	35	31	.530	2½
New York	26	40	.412	10½
Boston	23	46	.333	16
Philadelphia	15	53	.221	23½

#### Southwest Division

x-Miami	46	20	.697	—
Washington	35	33	.515	12
Charlotte	33	36	.478	14½
Atlanta	31	35	.470	15
Orlando	19	50	.275	28½

#### Central Division

x-Indiana	50	18	.735	—
Chicago	38	30	.559	12
Cleveland	26	43	.377	24½
Detroit	25	42	.373	24½
Milwaukee	13	56	.188	37½

### Western Conference

#### Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	51	16	.761	—
Houston	46	26	.636	5½
Memphis	40	27	.597	11
Dallas	41	28	.594	11
New Orleans	27	40	.403	24

#### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	45	24	.652	5½
Portland	34	33	.515	11½
Minnesota	31	37	.456	19
Utah	22	47	.319	28½

#### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	48	21	.696	—
Golden State	44	26	.629	4½
Phoenix	39	29	.574	8½
Sacramento	24	44	.353	23½
L.A. Lakers	22	45	.328	25

x-Clinched playoff spot

#### Wednesday's games

Chicago 102, Philadelphia 94	
Brooklyn 104, Charlotte 99	
Boston 101, Miami 96	
Memphis 96, Utah 86	
Toronto 107, New Orleans 100	
Phoenix 109, Orlando 93	
San Antonio 125, L.A. Lakers 109	
Oklahoma City 102, Cleveland 95	
Houston 129, Minnesota 106	
Portland 116, Washington 103	
Golden State 115, Milwaukee 110	

#### Friday's games

New York at Philadelphia	
Oklahoma City at Toronto	
Boston at Atlanta	
Memphis at Miami	
New Orleans at Atlanta	
Denver at Dallas	
Detroit at Phoenix	
San Antonio at Sacramento	
Washington at L.A. Lakers	

#### Saturday's games

Portland at Charlotte	
Houston at Cleveland	
Philadelphia at Chicago	
Indiana at Memphis	
Miami at New Orleans	
Orlando at Utah	
San Antonio at Golden State	
Detroit at L.A. Clippers	

#### Thursday

##### Warriors 115, Bucks 110

MILWAUKEE — Middleton 4-14 2-2 11, Iyavosa 4-9 3-3 11, Pachulia 3-4 0-0 6, Knight 9-16 8-12 27, Waters 1-3 0-0 2, Antetokounmpo 3-6 5-11 11, Adrien 5-6 1-2 11, Henson 5-10 3-6 13. Sessions 5-12 7-8 18. Totals 39-80 29-39 110.	
GOLDEN STATE — Barnes 0-7 0-0 0, Lee 9-11 4-27 28, Bogut 4-5 0-0 8, Curry 9-14 10-31, Thompson 11-23 4-4 29, Biatch 2-0 0-2, Green 2-6 1-2 5, Crawford 5-8 0-0 12, Speights 2-4 2-6, Kuzmick 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-80 21-25 115.	

##### Golden State

Three-Point Goals—Milwaukee 3-12 (Sessions 1-2, Knight 1-2, Middleton 1-3, Waters 0-1, Iyavosa 0-2, Antetokounmpo 0-2), Golden State 8-27 (Curry 3-5, Thompson 3-11, Crawford 2-8, Biatch 0-1, Green 0-2, Barnes 0-5). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 40 (Gooden 14, Barton 13, Crabbe 12, Crabbie 0-0-0. Totals 41-81 20-25 116.	
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##### Portland

Three-Point Goals—Washington 12-27 (Wall 5-10, Ariza 3-4, Webster 2-5, Beal 2-6, Harrington 0-2, Gooden 0-2), Portland 14-35 (Matthews 4-8, Wright 3-8, Lillard 3-8, Batum 2-5, McCollum 1-2, Claver 1-1, Williams 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 40 (Gooden, Ariza 9), Portland 50 (Batum 14), Assists—Washington 25 (Wall 14), Portland 32 (Lillard 10). Total Fouls—Washington 21, Portland 18. Technicals—Washington defensive three second, Portland defensive three second. A—19,571 (19,980).	
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##### Thunder 102, Cavaliers 95

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 12-21 8-9 35, Ibaka 6-13 4-4 16, Adams 2-3 0-0 4, Jackson 5-13 2-2 13, Robinson 2-8 0-0 4, Collison 0-10 0-0 10, Butler 10-0-0 8, Fisher 1-4 12, Thabeau 0-1 0-0 0, Lamb 4-10 1-1 10, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Shakur 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-89 16-20 102.	
CLEVELAND — Geo 3-4 0-0 7, Thompson 2-8 1-2 5, Hawes 8-17 1-2 20, Jack 2-8 2-2 6, Wall 15-25 6-22 30, Dellavedova 4-8 1-2 11, Varejao 3-5 2-2 8, Edwards 1-2 0-2 2, Zeller 2-4 2-2 6. Totals 36-81 15-24 95.	

##### Oklahoma City

Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 21 (Fisher 3-6, Durant 3-8, Butler 2-6, Lamb 1-3, Jackson 1-5, Jones 0-1, Robinson 0-0), Cleveland 9-22 (Hawes 3-10, Waters 4-7, Thompson 10). Assists—Oklahoma City 21, Cleveland 20. Technicals—Durant, Oklahoma City defensive three second, 2, Cleveland defensive three second. A—18,246 (20,562).	
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DON RYAN/AP

Trail Blazers guard Wesley Matthews celebrates after sinking a three-point shot during the second half of Thursday's game against the Washington Wizards in Portland, Ore. Matthews led Portland with 28 points as it won 116-103.

### Trail Blazers 116, Wizards 103

WASHINGTON — Ariza 6-9 0-0 15, Booker 5-7 0-0 10, Sorapirth 2-7 0-0 4, Wall 8-18 3-4 24, Beal 6-18 4-15, Webster 3-9 0-0 8, Gooden 6-13 6-6 18, Singleton 0-0 0-0 0, Miller 0-1 0-0 0, Harrington 0-5 0-0 0, Porter Jr. 0-0 0-0 0, Temple 2-3 2-2 6. Totals 38-80 15-17 103.

PORTLAND — Batum 5-9 0-0 12, Wright 6-11 0-15, Lopez 4-5 0-0 8, Lillard 8-18 4-23, Matthews 8-16 8-8 28, Williams 3-6 0-0 6, McCollum 2-4 1-2 6, Leonard 0-0 1-1, Robinson 2-4 3-4 7, Claver 2-5 2-2 2. Totals 38-80 15-17 103.

Washington 28 23 30 30-103  
Portland 23 22 30 30-116  
(Wall 5-10, Ariza 3-4, Webster 2-5, Beal 2-6, Harrington 0-2, Gooden 0-2), Portland 14-35 (Matthews 4-8, Wright 3-8, Lillard 3-8, Batum 2-5, McCollum 1-2, Claver 1-1, Williams 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 40 (Gooden, Ariza 9), Portland 50 (Batum 14), Assists—Washington 25 (Wall 14), Portland 32 (Lillard 10). Total Fouls—Washington 21, Portland 18. Technicals—Washington defensive three second, Portland defensive three second. A—19,571 (19,980).

Thunder 102, Cavaliers 95  
OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 12-21 8-9 35, Ibaka 6-13 4-4 16, Adams 2-3 0-0 4, Jackson 5-13 2-2 13, Robinson 2-8 0-0 4, Collison 0-10 0-0 10, Butler 10-0-0 8, Fisher 1-4 12, Thabeau 0-1 0-0 0, Lamb 4-10 1-1 10, Jones 0-2 0-0 0, Shakur 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 38-89 16-20 102.

CLEVELAND — Geo 3-4 0-0 7, Thompson 2-8 1-2 5, Hawes 8-17 1-2 20, Jack 2-8 2-2 6, Wall 15-25 6-22 30, Dellavedova 4-8 1-2 11, Varejao 3-5 2-2 8, Edwards 1-2 0-2 2, Zeller 2-4 2-2 6. Totals 36-81 15-24 95.

Oklahoma City 21 25 29 30-116  
Three-Point Goals—Oklahoma City 21 (Fisher 3-6, Durant 3-8, Butler 2-6, Lamb 1-3, Jackson 1-5, Jones 0-1, Robinson 0-0), Cleveland 9-22 (Hawes 3-10, Waters 4-7, Thompson 10). Assists—Oklahoma City 21, Cleveland 20. Technicals—Durant, Oklahoma City defensive three second, 2, Cleveland defensive three second. A—18,246 (20,562).

## NCAA TOURNAMENT



Bill Wipperfurth/AP

Saint Joseph's Halil Kanacevic, right, shoots over Connecticut's Amida Brimah during Thursday's game in Buffalo, N.Y.

## East Region

## Connecticut survives OT

## Villanova pulls away from Milwaukee

The Associated Press

**BUFFALO, N.Y.** — Turns out, Jim Calhoun left Connecticut in good hands.

With Calhoun watching from the stands, the Huskies continued their winning NCAA tournament tradition thanks to a hold-over player in senior guard Shabazz Napier and a new coach, Kevin Ollie.

Napier shook off several misses — including a three-point attempt at the second-half buzzer — to score nine of his 24 points in overtime in UConn's 89-81 win over Saint Joseph's in the second round of the tournament on Thursday night. It came in Ollie's tournament debut behind the bench, two years after health issues forced Calhoun to step down, and a year after the Huskies were barred from postseason play because of academic sanctions.

"It was a great win," Ollie said. "Those players right there, that's what kept this university alive. They could have transferred. They could have done everything. ... They just stayed and they were resilient, and they played hard."

Napier, a freshman on Calhoun's 2011 national championship team, was among those who elected to stay and help usher in a new era.

"That's why I came to the University of Connecticut to play in these tournaments, to give myself and my team a chance to hoist that trophy at the end of the day," Napier said. "We're here for one common goal."

DeAndre Daniels scored 18 while freshman center Amida Brimah forced overtime by completing a three-point play in

the final minute.

UConn (27-8), the East Region's seventh seed, advances to play No. 2 seed Villanova on Saturday in a meeting of two former Big East rivals.

Langston Galloway scored 25 points for Saint Joseph's (24-10). The Hawks were down because of a lack of depth, and then lost their top forward Halil Kanacevic, who fouled out early into overtime.

"I definitely didn't want to go out like that," Kanacevic said. "I feel bad, but I tried to stay in the game with the guys. There's nothing you can do at that point."

**Villanova 73, Milwaukee 53:** At Buffalo, N.Y., Darrun Hilliard scored 16 points, JayVaughn Pinkston added 13 and the Wildcats beat the Panthers.

No. 15 seed Milwaukee (21-14), the surprise champion of the Horizon League, made it a game all the way, leading much of the first half before fading late.

Villanova (29-4) was eager to get back on the court after being upset last week by Seton Hall in the Big East quarterfinals, but the effect of that loss seemed to linger.

A 14-point run spanning halftime gave the Wildcats a nine-point lead early in the second half and they held on. Hilliard's long three-pointer from the top of the key with 8:10 left gave them a 53-42 advantage, and the Panthers couldn't recover.

James Bell had 12 points for Villanova on 5-for-14 shooting and missed all eight threes he attempted. Kris Jenkins and Josh Hart each scored 11.

Austin Arians had 17 points to lead Milwaukee and Matt Tiby scored 10. Jordan



Nick LoVerde/AP

**Milwaukee's Jordan Aaron, left, fights for position with Villanova's Tony Chennault during Thursday's game in Buffalo, N.Y. Villanova won 73-53.**

Aaron, Milwaukee's leading scorer, finished with six points, all in the second half, on 1-for-15 shooting. Kyle Keln, second in scoring, had eight points, all after the break.

## Upsets: Only Michigan State followed script

## FROM BACK PAGE

Michigan State? They just did what every pundit in America expected it to do on its way to what many expect will be another Final Four appearance for Izzo. Led by Payne's record performance, the Spartans overpowered the Blue Hens, adding credence to the idea that Michigan State was under-seeded from the start.

Delaware coach Monte Ross certainly felt that way after watching Payne put together one of the best tournament performances in the past 15 years.

"The shame of it was, in the whole spectrum of this whole thing, I thought that there were just two teams I just didn't want to play because I just thought that they were playing at a high level and coaches were tournament tested and you weren't going to sneak up on them or anything like that," Ross said. "Michigan State was one of them."

Payne's performance was the first 40-point effort in the NCAA tournament since Stephen Curry did it for Davidson in a win over Gonzaga in 2008. Payne set a school tournament scoring record, surpassing the 34 points Greg Kelsey scored during Michigan State's 1979 title run led by Magic Johnson.

Payne's overall line: 10-for-15 from the field, 4-for-5 from three-point range, and a tournament-record 17-for-17 from the free-throw line. He chipped in eight rebounds, too.

"We are here to win the weekend and that's the main goal," Payne said.

Somewhat Payne's performance became a footnote to the other craziness that took place inside the Spokane Arena.

A year after picking up its first NCAA tourney win by shocking New Mexico as a No. 14 seed, Harvard was back continuing its NCAA education. Siyani Chambers scored 11 points, including five straight in the final 2 minutes. Wesley Saunders led the Crimson (27-4) with 12 points as Harvard proved last year's upset was no fluke. The Crimson became the first Ivy League school with NCAA tournament wins in consecutive years since Princeton in 1983-84.

The drama belonged to North Dakota State, which had Oklahoma playing catch up for most of the night, only to see the Sooners surge in front in the closing minutes.

Down 66-63, Lawrence Alexander rattled in a three with 11 seconds left in regulation. The Bison then survived three Oklahoma shot attempts to force the extra session.

In overtime, Alexander came through with clutch shots again, although the biggest contribution came from freshman Carlin Dupree. Having played a total of 29 minutes in the previous five games, Dupree entered after Taylor Braun fouled out. All Dupree contributed was two free throws — from a 58-percent free-throw shooter — and a tough baseline basket with 41 seconds left when running time off the clock was probably the more prudent move.

Not to be outdone, New Mexico State nearly added a final punctuation to the night, forcing overtime against San Diego State on a three-pointer from Aronis in the closing seconds of regulation. But the Aztecs got enough out of Xavier Thames in overtime to avoid a third upset in the bubble.

"The talent is pretty good everywhere," San Diego State coach Steve Fisher said.



# NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Midwest Region

# High seeds narrowly escape upsets

## Louisville, Saint Louis survive close calls

The Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. — Now everyone knows why Louisville coach Rick Pitino wanted nothing to do with Manhattan.

Luke Hancock hit two huge three-pointers in the final 1:19 to help Louisville finally shake free from tenacious Manhattan, 71-64 in the NCAA tournament Thursday night.

The defending national champions were down 58-55 with less than 4 minutes remaining — getting outplayed for most of the second half before coming alive from behind the arc.

Silky smooth guard Russ Smith, who finished with 18 points, got things going with a game-tying three from the wing. Hancock delivered the knockout blows. He stole an inbound pass, got fouled and made both free throws. He hit the first of two daggers with a little more than a minute left and then sank a wide-open look from behind the arc with 28 seconds remaining.

Those shots propelled fourth-seeded Louisville (30-5) into the round of 32, where it will face fifth-seeded Saint Louis on Saturday in the Midwest Region.

“We needed a couple bounces to go our way,” Hancock said. “Nobody wants to go home on the first day. We’re trying to build a legacy. This is a first step.”

Louisville is trying to become the first since Florida in 2007 to win back-to-back titles.

While many questioned why the Cardinals were given a 4 seed, Pitino criticized the selection committee for pitting his team against 13th-seeded Manhattan, which is coached by Pitino’s former assistant, Steve Masiello.

“That’s why I didn’t want to play them, because I’m sick inside losing to one of my players,” Pitino said.

Masiello was equally disappointed in the draw and the outcome.

“It’s emotional. It’s emotional,” he said. “You look down, and the guy who kind of made you who you are is your enemy for 40 minutes. So it’s tough. You know, it’s an honor to be on the other sideline, but it’s about the kids. It’s not about me. My kids played. Their kids played. I think it was two very good basketball teams.”

“But it’s tough. It hurts. You know, if I’m going to lose to anyone, I guess lose to him.”

Masiello served as Pitino’s ball boy with the NBA’s New York Knicks in the 1980s, played for him at Kentucky (1996-1997) and then spent another six years coaching alongside him at Louisville (2005-11). They know each other inside and out, with Masiello molding Manhattan to mirror the Cardinals.

And it showed. The Jaspers (25-8) attacked Louisville’s weaknesses and gave the Cards fits on the defensive end. Masiello was at times calling out Louisville’s plays.

“That’s one of the best coaching jobs that I have seen in my 39 years,” Pitino said. “He just made us have to guard on the perimeter with four guards.”

**Saint Louis 83, N.C. State 80 (OT):** At Orlando, Fla., Rob Loe scored 22 points and grabbed 15 rebounds, helping the Billikens wipe out a late 14-point deficit and pull away in overtime.

Jordair Jett overcame a slow start to score 18, doing most of his damage while fifth-seeded Saint Louis (27-6) was making its comeback in the last five minutes of regulation.

Both teams shot horribly from the free-throw line, with Saint Louis shooting 12-for-26 and No. 12 seed NC State shooting 20-for-37.

T.J. Warren scored 28 points for the Wolf-pack (22-14), but the Atlantic Coast Confer-



PHOTOS BY PHELAN M. EBENACK, ABOVE, AND MORRY GASH, BELOW/AP

**Above:** Manhattan center Rhamel Brown (5) blocks a shot by Louisville guard Russ Smith in Orlando, Fla. **Below:** Texas center Cameron Ridley (55) goes up to make the game-winning shot against Arizona State guard Shaqueille McKissic. Fourth-seeded Louisville survived a scare in its NCAA tournament opener, while Texas prevailed on Ridley’s buzzer-beater.



ence player of the year made just six of his 14 free-throw attempts, including one that could have tied it in the final minute of OT.

**Michigan 57, Wofford 40:** At Milwaukee, Glenn Robinson III scored 14 points and the second-seeded Wolverines started their quest for a second straight trip to the Final Four.

Michigan (26-8) capitalized on its decisive edge in athleticism on the undersized and No. 15 Terriers (20-13) but still had some nervous moments after missing 15 of its first 18 shots in the second half.

**Texas 87, Arizona State 85:** Cameron Ridley’s buzzer-beating layup lifted the Longhorns into the third round at Milwaukee.

Jonathan Holmes missed badly on a long three-pointer for seventh-seeded Texas in the final seconds, but Ridley emerged from the scrum with the ball and banked it in as time expired over the outstretched fingers of an Arizona State defender.

The call stood after a video replay, giving Texas its first win in the NCAA tournament since 2011.

## Scoreboard

### First round

**Dayton, Ohio Tuesday, March 18**  
Albany (N.Y.) 71, Mount St. Mary’s 64  
N.C. State 73, Xavier 59  
**Wednesday, March 19**  
Cal Poly 81, Texas Southern 69  
Tennessee 78, Iowa 65, OT

### East Regional

**Second Round Thursday, March 20**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
UConn 89, Saint Joseph’s 51, OT  
Villanova 73, Milwaukee 57  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
Harvard 61, Cincinnati 57  
Michigan State 93, Delaware 78  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
Memphis (25-9) vs. George Washington (24-8)  
Virginia (28-6) vs. Coastal Carolina (21-12)  
**At San Antonio**  
North Carolina (23-9) vs. Providence (23-11)  
Iowa State (26-7) vs. North Carolina Central (28-5)

**Third Round Saturday, March 22**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Villanova (23-4) vs. UConn (N.Y.)  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
Michigan State (27-8) vs. Harvard (27-4)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
Virginia-Coastal Carolina winner vs. Memphis-George Washington winner  
**At San Antonio**  
Iowa State-North Carolina Central winner vs. North Carolina-Providence winner

### South Regional

**Second Round Thursday, March 20**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Dayton 60, Ohio State 59  
Syracuse 77, Western Michigan 53  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
Pittsburgh 77, Colorado 66  
Florida 67, Albany (N.Y.) 55  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At St. Louis**  
New Mexico (27-6) vs. Stanford (21-12)  
Kansas (24-9) vs. Eastern Kentucky (24-9)  
**At San Diego**  
VCU (26-8) vs. Stephen F. Austin (31-2)  
UCLA (26-8) vs. Tulsa (21-12)  
**Third Round Saturday, March 22**  
**At Buffalo, N.Y.**  
Syracuse (26-5) vs. Dayton (24-10)  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
Florida (32-2) vs. Pittsburgh (26-9)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
Kansas-Eastern Kentucky winner vs. New Mexico-Stanford winner  
**At San Diego**  
UCLA-Tulsa winner vs. VCU-Stephen F. Austin winner

### Midwest Regional

**Second Round Thursday, March 20**  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
Saint Louis 83, N.C. State 80, OT  
Louisville 71, Manhattan 64  
**At Milwaukee**  
Michigan 57, Wofford 40  
Texas 87, Arizona State 85  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
Duke (26-8) vs. Mercer (26-8)  
UMass (24-9) vs. Tennessee (22-12)  
**At St. Louis**  
Wichita State (24-0) vs. Cal Poly (14-19)  
Kentucky (24-10) vs. Kansas State (20-12)  
**Third Round Saturday, March 22**  
**At Orlando, Fla.**  
Louisville (30-5) vs. Saint Louis (27-6)  
**At Milwaukee**  
Michigan (26-8) vs. Oregon (24-9)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**At Raleigh, N.C.**  
Duke-Mercer winner vs. UMass-Tennessee winner  
**At St. Louis**  
Wichita State-Cal Poly winner vs. Kentucky-Kansas State winner

### West Regional

**Second Round Thursday, March 20**  
**At Milwaukee**  
Wisconsin 75, American 55  
Oregon 87, BYU 68  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
North Dakota State 80, Oklahoma 75, OT  
San Diego State 73, New Mexico State 69, OT  
**Friday, March 21**  
**At San Antonio**  
Baylor (24-1) vs. Nebraska (19-12)  
Troy (26-7) vs. Louisiana-Lafayette (23-11)  
**At San Diego**  
Arizona (30-0) vs. Weber State (19-11)  
Gonzaga (28-6) vs. Oklahoma State (21-12)  
**Third Round Saturday, March 22**  
**At Milwaukee**  
Wisconsin (27-7) vs. Oregon (24-9)  
**At Spokane, Wash.**  
San Diego State (30-4) vs. North Dakota State (26-6)  
**Sunday, March 23**  
**At San Antonio**  
Creighton-Louisiana-Lafayette winner vs. Baylor-Nebraska winner  
**At San Diego**  
Arizona-Weber State winner vs. Gonzaga-Oklahoma State winner

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## South Region

## Vee for victory

Dayton shocks sixth seed Ohio St.

*The Associated Press*

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Dayton is re-configuring the college basketball map in Ohio.

It no longer runs through Columbus after Vee Sanford's layup with 3.8 seconds left secured 11th-seeded Dayton's 60-59 victory over sixth-seeded Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA tournament on Thursday.

"I guess they called us the little brother, or whatever," Flyers guard Jordan Sibert said. "We can't be called that anymore."

Sibert has seen it from both sides after transferring to Dayton following two seasons at Ohio State.

"To be able to go out there and play with this group of guys, to be able to come up with this win, it's unbelievable," Sibert said.

Leave it to another transfer, Sanford, to secure the victory in a back-and-forth game that featured 15 lead changes between two schools separated by some 75 miles.

After Ohio State's Aaron Craft hit a reverse layup with 15.5 seconds remaining, the Flyers set up a play during a timeout with 10.8

seconds left.

Dayton inbounded the ball and worked it to Sanford on the right wing. Driving the lane without hesitation, he got a step on Craft and laid in a shot from about 4 feet away.

"No, I wasn't nervous," said Sanford, who transferred to Dayton from Georgetown. "We've drawn up a play like that, and I messed it up previously. But (coach Archie Miller) just kept his trust in me, and I'm just thankful that the shot went in."

It's one and done for the Big Ten Conference Buckeyes (25-10), who were eliminated in the first game for only the third time in 26 tournament appearances.

The loss marked the end for three seniors, including Craft, who were part of a team that had advanced past the third round in each of the previous three years. **Syracuse 77, W. Michigan 53:** At Buffalo, N.Y., The Orange's backcourt of Trevor Cooney and Tyler Ennis combined for 34 points and the team's defense clamped down.

Western Michigan (23-10), the Mid-American Conference cham-



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

Dayton teammates embrace Vee Sanford, center, after defeating Ohio State in a second-round game of the NCAA tournament in Buffalo, N.Y., on Thursday. Sanford scored on a layup with 3.8 seconds left to lift 11th-seeded Dayton to a 60-59 win.

pion, had won 14 of 16 games and was in the NCAA tournament for the first time in a decade.

**Pittsburgh 77, Colorado 48:** At Orlando, Fla., Talib Zanna scored 16 of his 18 points in the opening half, helping the ninth-seeded Panthers build a 28-point lead.

Pittsburgh (26-9) shot 51 per-

cent and played stifling defense.

**Florida 67, Albany 55:** At Orlando, Fla., Dorian Finney-Smith scored 16 points, most of them on dunks, and the top-seeded Gators used a second-half surge to beat the 16th-seeded Great Danes.

Florida (33-2) sleepwalked through the first half, swapping the lead back and forth with Al-

bany, but Florida's bench provided the team with a much-needed spark.

Finney-Smith, the Southeastern Conference's sixth man of the year, was 6-for-10 shooting.

Freshman guard Kasey Hill, who wasn't sure he would be able to play because of turf toe, chipped in 10 points.

## West Region

## Second-seeded Wisconsin brushes aside American

*The Associated Press*

MILWAUKEE — A sea of fans wearing Wisconsin red roared after every shot and every score, growing more exuberant as the Badgers' NCAA opener became a historic rout.

Playing the first two tournament games close to home was a goal all year, and Wisconsin players fed off the energy to extinguish any upset hopes of 15th-seeded American.

Ben Brust scored 17 points and the No. 2 seed devastated the Eagles with a 22-5 run to close the first half in a 75-35 victory Thursday in Milwaukee, barely 90 minutes from their campus in Madison. The Badgers will play Oregon in the third round of the West Regional on Saturday.

Wisconsin (27-7) recovered from a brief first-half rut as the Eagles (20-13), champions of the Patriot League, built a seven-point lead with their Princeton-style offense.

"It was good to get the building loud," Brust said. "I said, 'Hey, they're up. We better wake up.'"

Trailing 17-10 about midway through the first half, the Badgers took away the backdoor cuts, forced turnovers and otherwise flustered American into 4-for-26 shooting over the final 29 minutes. One field-goal drought lasted nearly 14 minutes.

"That's pretty crazy," guard Josh Gasser said. "That must mean you did something well."

The Eagles don't encounter the type of execution and athleticism displayed by Wisconsin in the Patriot League.

"They're a No. 2 seed for a reason," coach Mike Brennan said.

After Wisconsin was ousted in the first round last year as a fifth seed, Brust made sure his senior sea-

son didn't end the same way. He attacked the glass for buckets on back-to-back possessions, ending with a three-point play to give Wisconsin a 23-20 lead.

The rout was on. The Badgers hit 57 percent of their shots in the second half on the way to their largest margin of victory in the school's 44 NCAA post-season games.

John Schoof and Tony Wroblecky each had 11 points for American.

"We were excited. We were playing well. We were making them take tough shots," said Wroblecky. "We were scoring, then we kind of hit a rut."

Florida Gulf Coast's NCAA tournament run last year as a No. 15 seed has given all underdogs hope. And for a while in the first half, American was on a similar roll.

But Ryan was confident his team could handle the Princeton offense, a scheme the Badgers had faced successfully when playing Northwestern in recent years under Bill Carmody. Ryan said he was even awoken by a few nightmares last night of his team getting beat on backdoor cuts.

They figured it out and earned another game in friendly surroundings.

"We couldn't score," Brennan said. "They stopped us stone cold."

**Oregon 87, BYU 68:** At Milwaukee, Elgin Cook scored a career-high 23 points for the seventh-seeded Ducks.

Joseph Young had 19 points for Oregon (24-9), which had to stage a big comeback to beat the Cougars 100-96 in overtime in December. There was no comeback needed this time, with the Ducks turning away every charge by BYU in the second half.



MORRIS GASH/AP

Wisconsin forward Frank Kaminsky, back, blocks a shot by American guard Jesse Reed during the second half of Thursday's second-round game in Milwaukee. The Badgers won 75-35.

## SPORTS


**Just in the nick of time**

 Alfredsson's goal with 1 second left in OT lifts Red Wings | **NHL, Page 26**
**NCAA TOURNAMENT**


ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Harvard's Siyani Chambers, right, leaps into the arms of teammate Brandyn Curry after the Crimson beat Cincinnati in an East Region game in Spokane, Wash.

**Inside:**

Louisville pushed to brink, Page 30

# Stunners in Spokane

## ND State, Harvard pull upsets

 By TIM BOOTH  
The Associated Press

SPOKANE, Wash. — Not surprising, it was Tom Izzo and Michigan State that proved the only certainty on a chaotic opening day.

Two upsets. Two upsets. And one crazy day in Spokane.

"It's the tournament so everybody is going to bring their best punch," San Diego State's Dwayne Polle said.

Michigan State, the No. 4 seed in the East Region, provided the only blowout in the second-round with a 93-78 win over Delaware behind the career-best 41 points from Adreian Payne.

Surrounding the Spartans was chaos. It started early with Harvard becoming

the latest No. 12 seed to knock off a 5 seed with a 61-57 takedown of Cincinnati. The night session saw Oklahoma taken to overtime on a late three-pointer, then dispatched in the extra session by 12th-seeded North Dakota State 80-75.

And what appeared to be a blowout in the making at halftime became far more uncomfortable than fourth-seeded San Diego State wanted. The Aztecs were pushed to overtime on a late three-pointer by New Mexico State's Kevin Aronis. San Diego State held on in overtime for a 73-69 win over the 13th-seeded Aggies.

"There's so many good teams in the tournament, obviously not a lot of difference," Oklahoma coach Lon Kruger said after the Sooners were bounced. "The depth and the quality of the depth is 1 thing as good as it's ever been."

**SEE UPSETS ON PAGE 29**


ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

North Dakota State's Lawrence Alexander shoots over Oklahoma's Ryan Spangler during the second half of Thursday's game in Spokane, Wash.



AP